John Jay Pittman Collection Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Two

May 20-21, 1998

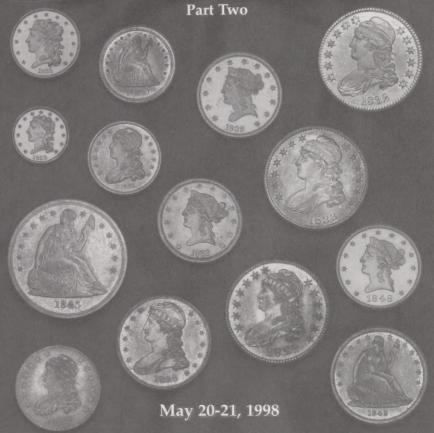
Catalogued and Sold By David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

The John Jay Pittman Collection Selected Numismatic Rarities Part Two May 20-21, 1998 Number 110 of 250 Schring C. Pittman Gentring C. Pittman David W. Akers Plants A. Mulvaney Thomas A. Mulvaney Donald L. Slouffnan

Prices Realized

The 'John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities



Catalogued and Sold By David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

Total Prices Realized: \$12,203,510.00

Prices Realized

Lot Price	Lot Price	Lot Price	Lot Price
1265 30,800.00	1297 4,675.00	1329 2,640.00	1361770.00
126612,650.00	1298132,000.00	1330 15,400.00	1362 4,950.00
1267 2,090.00	1299 6,050.00	133119,800.00	1363 550.00
126812,100.00	1300 30,800.00	1332880.00	1364 1,650.00
1269 2,090.00	1301 3,520.00	1333 4,950.00	1365 2,640.00
1270 9,350.00	130277,000.00	1334 880.00	1366 2,420.00
127140,700.00	1303715.00	1335	1367 2,860.00
1272 1,650.00	1304 1,100.00	1336 9,350.00	1368 7,150.00
1273 7,700.00	130518,700.00	1337 1,760.00	136913,750.00
1274 1,430.00	1306 2,090.00	1338 9,350.00	1370264.00
1275 3,850.00	1307 6,050.00	1339 7,700.00	1371715.00
1276 1,320.00	1308 19,800.00	1340 4,675.00	1372 1,650.00
127746,750.00	130941,250.00	1341467.50	1373440.00
1278110,000.00	1310 9,350.00	1342 1,045.00	1374 3,080.00
1279 7,150.00	1311 3,300.00	1343 577.50	1375 6,050.00
128012,100.00	131228,600.00	1344 5,500.00	1376 198.00
1281 1,320.00	13138,250.00	1345 4,400.00	1377247.50
128218,150.00	131466,000.00	1346 8,800.00	1378 2,860.00
128349,500.00	131571,500.00	1347412.50	1379 12,100.00
128460,500.00	1316 4,620.00	1348 4,290.00	1380 1,100.00
1285 3,575.00	1317143,000.00	1349 495.00	1381 3,300.00
128631,900.00	1318 20,900.00	1350	1382 3,080.00
1287412.50	1319825.00	1351 4,400.00	1383715.00
128816,500.00	1320 3,025.00	1352 10,450.00	1384 9,350.00
1289 4,675.00	1321176,000.00	1353 4,125.00	1385715.00
129014,300.00	1322770.00	1354 6,050.00	1386 6,050.00
1291 38,500.00	1323 2,640.00	1355 3,575.00	1387 6,050.00
1292 2,090.00	1324 4,125.00	1356 5,225.00	1388 330.00
1293 38,500.00	132599,000.00	1357 2,200.00	1389 2,860.00
1294 8,800.00	1326 2,200.00	1358 4,950.00	1390412.50
1295121,000.00	1327 5,500.00	1359 10,450.00	1391 4,125.00
129682,500.00	132824,200.00	1360 1,430.00	1392 660.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1393	.3,850.00	1425	154.00	1457		1489	385.00
1394	467.50	1426	198.00	1458	220.00	1490	770.00
1395	.9,900.00	1427	.66.00	1459	715.00	1491	.46,750.00
1396	825.00	1428	264.00	1460 .	9,900.00	1492	1,210.00
1397	.4,400.00	1429 6,	.050.00	1461 .	6,050.00	1493	1,870.00
1398	.2,860.00	1430	495.00	1462 .	4,400.00	1494	.10,450.00
1399	.4,125.00	1431	198.00	1463 .	30,800.00	1495	.46,200.00
1400	715.00	1432	.935.00	1464 .	3,300.00	1496	.18,700.00
1401	.1,540.00	1433	132.00	1465		1497	.35,750.00
1402	.4,400.00	1434	.220.00	1466	550.00	1498	660.00
1403	440.00	1435	.220.00	1467 .	6,600.00	1499	.52,250.00
1404	.1,760.00	1436	.467.50	1468	522.50	1500	715.00
1405	291.50	1437	.935.00	1469	412.50	1501	.30,800.00
1406	385.00	1438	.935.00	1470	330.00	1502	.88,000.00
1407	181.50	1439 4,	.125.00	1471 .	1,100.00	1503	.14,300.00
1408	.2,420.00	1440 4,	,675.00	1472 .	1,650.00	1504	1,100.00
1409	880.00	1441	,000.000	1473 .	35,200.00	1505	.16,500.00
1410	.1,540.00	1442 1,	760.00	1474	247.50	1506	.41,800.00
1411	522.50	1443 2,	,420.00	1475	770.00	1507	7,700.00
1412	.1,210.00	1444 2,	,860.00	1476	41,250.00	1508	.66,000.00
1413	495.00	1445	.990.00	1477	26,400.00	1509	330.00
1414	412.50	1446	.660.00	1478	770.00	1510	660.00
1415	275.00	1447	.220.00	1479	42,350.00	1511	.55,000.00
1416	825.00	1448 5,	,500.00	1480	7,150.00	1512	.11,000.00
1417	605.00	1449 5,	,225.00	1481 .	4,675.00	1513	.93,500.00
1418	302.50	1450 13,	,200.00	1482	412.50	1514	302.50
1419	.4,125.00	1451 7,	,975.00	1483	198.00	1515	.35,750.00
1420	357.50	1452 7,	,150.00	1484	3,575.00	1516	2,200.00
1421	990.00	1453 1,	,980.00	1485	63,250.00	1517	132,000.00
1422	550.00	1454 3,	,080.00	1486		1518	935.00
1423	770.00	1455 1,	,100.00	1487	935.00	1519	.71,500.00
1424	132.00	1456 1,	,430.00	1488	1,760.00	1520	4,400.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1521	.33,000.00	1553	770.00	1585	1,760.00	1617	880.00
1522	.44,000.00	1554	412.50	1586	522.50	1618	4,675.00
1523	715.00	1555	9,900.00	1587	154.00	1619	6,600.00
1524	.77,000.00	1556	4,950.00	1588	198.00	1620	2,090.00
1525	8,800.00	1557	385.00	1589	231.00	1621	5,500.00
1526	.12,100.00	1558	5,500.00	1590	13,200.00	1622	2,420.00
1527	.30,800.00	1559	440.00	1591	1,650.00	1623	302.50
1528	6,600.00	1560	.16,500.00	1592	550.00	1624	2,090.00
1529	4,125.00	1561	330.00	1593	2,200.00	1625	522.50
1530	2,420.00	1562	1,210.00	1594	550.00	1626	990.00
1531	770.00	1563	1,650.00	1595	330.00	1627	6,600.00
1532	.38,500.00	1564	302.50	1596	247.50	1628	247.50
1533	9,350.00	1565	247.50	1597	302.50	1629	1,045.00
1534	.44,000.00	1566	330.00	1598	2,420.00	1630	2,860.00
1535	302.50	1567	330.00	1599	12,100.00	1631	2,420.00
1536	.46,750.00	1568	1,540.00	1600	5,225.00	1632	522.50
1537	.10,450.00	1569	330.00	1601	3,300.00	1633	2,200.00
1538	302.50	1570	132.00	1602	8,800.00	1634	11,000.00
1539 1	143,000.00	1571	825.00	1603	2,860.00	1635	3,850.00
1540	302.50	1572	302.50	1604	412.50	1636	2,090.00
1541	.38,500.00	1573	220.00	1605	3,575.00	1637	1,540.00
1542	1,870.00	1574	192.50	1606	8,800.00	1638	7,150.00
1543	935.00	1575	880.00	1607	6,600.00	1639	550.00
1544	990.00	1576	4,125.00	1608	357.50	1640	3,850.00
1545	4,950.00	1577	247.50	1609	28,600.00	1641	55,000.00
1546	8,250.00	1578	2,530.00	1610	935.00	1642	4,950.00
1547	.13,200.00	1579	.38,500.00	1611	605.00	1643	8,800.00
1548	330.00	1580	357.50	1612	990.00	1644	1,760.00
1549	.44,000.00	1581	2,090.00	1613	2,420.00	1645	8,250.00
1550	7,150.00	1582	3,575.00	1614	18,700.00	1646	9,900.00
1551	2,420.00	1583	440.00	1615	302.50	1647	12,100.00
1552	.28,600.00	1584	2,200.00	1616	3,080.00	1648	66,000.00

Lot Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1649 880.00	1681	19,500.00	1713	26,400.00	1745	605.00
1650 495.00	1682	22,000.00	1714	66,000.00	1746	5,500.00
1651 1,210.00	1683	26,400.00	1715	82,500.00	1747	11,000.00
1652 176.00	1684	11,250.00	1716	22,000.00	1748	30,800.00
1653 990.00	1685	90,750.00	1717	88,000.00	1749	247.50
1654 2,090.00	1686	19,800.00	1718	.176,000.00	1750	2,200.00
1655 1,375.00	1687	15,400.00	1719	.176,000.00	1751	1,100.00
1656 385.00	1688	.9,350.00	1720	.110,000.00	1752	11,000.00
1657 1,760.00	1689	18,700.00	1721	4,950.00	1753 .	660.00
1658 2,420.00	1690	13,750.00	1722	990.00	1754	.132,000.00
1659 990.00	1691	.2,420.00	1723	2,420.00	1755	5,225.00
1660 1,045.00	1692	.1,100.00	1724	8,800.00	1756	10,450.00
1661 440.00	1693	35,750.00	1725	2,860.00	1757	4,675.00
1662 467.50	1694	.6,050.00	1726	1,650.00	1758 .	605.00
1663 467.50	1695	.6,050.00	1727	1,650.00	1759	99,000.00
1664 3,575.00	1696	.7,700.00	1728	1,540.00	1760	4,730.00
1665 1,540.00	1697	.7,700.00	1729	12,100.00	1761	1,870.00
1666 13,200.00	1698	30,800.00	1730	2,750.00	1762	7,975.00
1667 9,350.00	1699	.2,640.00	1731	6,600.00	1763	28,600.00
1668 660.00	1700	.1,320.00	1732	9,900.00	1764	30,800.00
166946,750.00	1701	.6,600.00	1733	12,100.00	1765	7,700.00
1670 7,150.00	1702	.6,600.00	1734	41,250.00	1766	8,800.00
167135,200.00	1703	.5,500.00	1735	35,200.00	1767	4,125.00
167260,500.00	1704	.8,800.00	1736	12,100.00	1768 .	192.50
1673 30,800.00	1705	.4,400.00	1737	11,550.00	1769 .	467.50
167433,000.00	1706	.2,475.00	1738	14,300.00	1770	9,350.00
1675 302.50	1707	.6,050.00	1739	9,350.00	1771	8,250.00
1676 935.00	1708	.1,870.00	1740	247.50	1772 .	247.50
167728,600.00	1709	.1,870.00	1741	22,000.00	1773 .	198.00
167846,750.00	1710	.1,210.00	1742	715.00	1774	6,600.00
167952,250.00	1711 75	56,250.00	1743	3,850.00	1775	6,600.00
1680 522.50	1712 52	22,500.00	1744	2,200.00	1776 .	

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1777	.1,980.00	1809	.13,200.00	1841 .	467.50	1873	220.00
1778	12,100.00	1810	550.00	1842 .	302.50	1874	467.50
1779	176.00	1811	2,640.00	1843	26,400.00	1875	.26,400.00
1780	.4,125.00	1812	1,210.00	1844	2,420.00	1876	660.00
1781	28,600.00	1813	.26,400.00	1845	22,000.00	1877	165.00
1782	.1,760.00	1814	1,650.00	1846	33,000.00	1878	192.50
1783	.1,100.00	1815	1,210.00	1847	28,600.00	1879	440.00
1784	715.00	1816	.18,700.00	1848	18,150.00	1880	3,960.00
1785	26,400.00	1817	330.00	1849	12,100.00	1881	1,650.00
1786	.3,080.00	1818	412.50	1850	9,900.00	1882	715.00
1787	.11,000.00	1819	4,950.00	1851	9,350.00	1883	192.50
1788	.2,640.00	1820	.19,800.00	1852	22,000.00	1884	385.00
1789	28,600.00	1821	137.50	1853	17,600.00	1885	5,225.00
1790	.6,050.00	1822	770.00	1854	13,200.00	1886	.33,000.00
1791	.1,100.00	1823	357.50	1855	15,950.00	1887	.24,200.00
1792	220.00	1824	.37,950.00	1856	18,700.00	1888	.14,300.00
1793	12,100.00	1825	1,430.00	1857	13,200.00	1889	.35,750.00
1794	.2,860.00	1826	.38,500.00	1858	46,750.00	1890	.16,500.00
1795	.6,050.00	1827	440.00	1859	33,000.00	1891	1,540.00
1796	.8,800.00	1828	5,225.00	1860	46,750.00	1892	1,430.00
1797	.7,150.00	1829	132.00	1861	35,200.00	1893	2,145.00
1798	.1,320.00	1830	1,210.00	1862	26,400.00	1894	6,600.00
1799	.8,800.00	1831	605.00	1863	20,350.00	1895	1,155.00
1800	.2,420.00	1832	6,600.00	1864	3,410.00	1896	.22,000.00
1801	41,250.00	1833	935.00	1865	14,300.00	1897	.19,800.00
1802	715.00	1834	.22,000.00	1866	20,900.00	1898	.24,200.00
1803	12,100.00	1835	2,530.00	1867	5,500.00	1899	907.50
1804	715.00	1836	.28,600.00	1868	28,600.00	1900	.35,750.00
1805	44,000.00	1837	4,125.00	1869	22,000.00	1901	6,050.00
1806	880.00	1838	1,870.00	1870	1,815.00	1902	1,320.00
1807	330.00	1839	.29,700.00	1871	4,125.00	1903	.31,900.00
1808	.6,050.00	1840	247.50	1872	825.00	1904	.15,950.00

Lot Price	Lot Price	e Lot Price	Lot Price
1905 28,600.00	1937 2,420.0	0 1969 28,600.00	2001 385.00
1906264,000.00	1938 4,510.0	0 1970 5,225.00	2002 550.00
1907132,000.00	1939 264.0	0 1971 28,600.00	2003 1,045.00
1908 6,050.00	1940 3,080.0	0 1972 2,530.00	2004 37,400.00
190982,500.00	1941 1,320.0	0 1973 33,000.00	2005
1910550,000.00	1942 2,640.0	0 1974	2006770.00
1911 3,575.00	1943 12,100.0	0 1975 3,300.00	2007
1912143,000.00	1944 1,100.0	0 1976 302.50	2008 40,700.00
1913 3,300.00	1945 11,000.0	0 197771,500.00	2009 825.00
1914 2,200.00	1946 990.0	0 1978 247.50	2010 4,950.00
1915 12,100.00	1947 6,050.0	0 197944,000.00	2011302.50
1916412.50	1948 22,000.0	0 1980385.00	2012412.50
1917 1,045.00	1949 1,980.0	0 1981 33,000.00	201324,200.00
1918 385.00	195071,500.0	0 198266,000.00	2014467.50
1919 2,090.00	1951 37,400.0	0 1983 302.50	2015 605.00
1920 935.00	1952	00 1984 60,500.00	2016 330.00
1921 495.00	1953 7,700.0	00 1985 302.50	2017
1922 20,900.00	1954 264.0	00 1986 24,200.00	2018 2,420.00
1923 9,350.00	1955 324.5	50 1987 825.00	2019 302.50
1924176,000.00	1956 1,320.0	00 1988 33,000.00	2020 605.00
1925 770.00	1957	00 1989 11,000.00	2021852.50
1926 3,850.00	1958 286.0	00 1990577.50	2022825.00
1927 7,150.00	1959 1,045.0	00 1991 357.50	2023 385.00
1928 2,640.00	1960 687.5	50 1992 2,640.00	2024
1929 412.50	1961 264.0	00 1993 24,200.00	2025770.00
1930 242.00	1962 1,210.0	00 1994 20,900.00	2026660.00
1931 385.00	1963 242.0	00 1995	2027 2,200.00
1932 330.00	1964 6,875.0	00 1996 16,500.00	2028 440.00
1933 715.00	1965 38,500.0	00 1997 247.50	2029 357.50
1934 8,800.00	1966 962.	50 1998 7,700.00	2030440.00
1935 990.00	196771,500.	00 1999 605.00	2031
1936 3,300.00	196846,750.	00 2000 26,400.00	2032880.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2033	1,870.00	2059 .	605.00	2085	605.00	2111	522.50
2034	.385.00	2060 .		2086	242.00	2112	440.00
2035	1,650.00	2061	1,430.00	2087	154.00	₹ 2113	880.00
2036	.825.00	2062 .		2088		2114	330.00
2037	3,575.00	2063 .	715.00	2089	330.00	2115	121.00
2038 51	1,700.00	2064	2,640.00	2090	880.00	2116	880.00
2039	.467.50	2065	3,080.00	2091	550.00	2117	176.00
2040	.935.00	2066	2,860.00	2092		2118	198.00
2041 33	3,000.00	2067	4,125.00	2093	467.50	2119	165.00
2042	2,420.00	2068	3,575.00	2094	330.00	2120	495.00
2043	.935.00	2069	1,210.00	2095	330.00	2121	412.50
2044	.275.00	2070	1,320.00	2096	275.00	2122	
2045	.357.50	2071	4,400.00	2097	275.00	2123	176.00
2046	.605.00	2072 .	467.50	2098		2124	1,650.00
2047	.110.00	2073 .	935.00	2099		2125	
2048	.357.50	2074 .		2100	275.00	2126	
2049	.198.00	2075 .		2101	302.50	2127	2,200.00
2050 2	2,365.00	2076 .	165.00	2102		2128	1,760.00
2051	55.00	2077 .	286.00	2103		2129	1,100.00
2052	.412.50	2078	467.50	2104	192.50	2130	121.00
2053	33.00	2079 .	880.00	2105	176.00	2131	44.00
2054	.242.00	2080 .	550.00	2106	632.50	2132	742.50
2055 1	1,100.00	2081 .	412.50	2107		2133	605.00
2056	55.00	2082 .	632.50	2108	154.00	2134	2,090.00
2057 1	1,045.00	2083 .	412.50	2109			
2058	.176.00	2084 .	198.00	2110	467.50		

The price listed for each lot includes the 10% buyer's fee, i.e. it is equal to the "hammer price" plus an additional 10% premium.*

^{*}This amount represents the actual amount paid by the successful bidder.

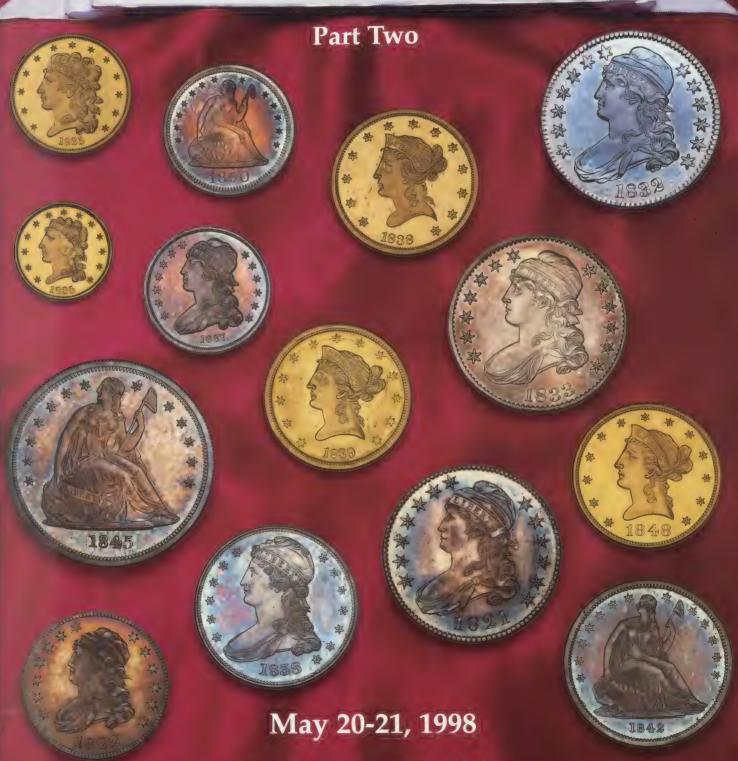




The

John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities



Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Two



1838 Eagle, Choice Proof Lot 1910

May 20-21, 1998

Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.
P.O. Box 373

Stuart, Florida 34995-0373

Phone: 561-781-4200 • Fax: 561-223-1964

Cover Photographs

Coins Shown on Front Cover:

1822 Quarter, Proof, Lot 1278

1837 Quarter, Proof, Lot 1295

1850 Quarter, Proof, Lot 1317

1821 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1476

1832 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1499

1833 CLE Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1502

1838 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1513

1842 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1524

1845 Silver Dollar (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 1711

1835 Quarter Eagle, Proof, Lot 1719

1835 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 1906

1838 Eagle, Proof, Lot 1910

1839 Eagle, Uncirculated, Lot 1912

1848 Eagle, Proof, Lot 1924

IJP always displayed his coins on a red velvet background with a white satin banner which read, "Selected Numismatic Rarities". The cover of this catalogue is a re-creation of the "look" of one of JJP's displays.

Coins Shown on Back Cover:

1821 Ouarter, Uncirculated, Lot 1277

1838 Quarter, Proof, Lot 1296

1843 Quarter, Proof, Lot 1309

1849 Ouarter, Proof, Lot 1315

1831 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1495

1835 CLE Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1508

1848 Half Dollar, Proof, Lot 1534

1800 Silver Dollar, Uncirculated, Lot 1669

1849 Silver Dollar, Proof, Lot 1679

1845 Half Dollar (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 1711

1845 Eagle (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 1711

1846 Dime (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 1712

1831 Quarter Eagle, Uncirculated, Lot 1717

1834 Quarter Eagle, Proof, Lot 1718

1836 Ouarter Eagle, Proof, Lot 1720

1804 Eagle, Uncirculated, Lot 1909

1930-S Eagle, Uncirculated, Lot 2041

Credits

Catalogue Written by: David W. Akers

Photography: Thomas A. Mulvaney

Catalogue Production: Grady Hayes & Associates, Inc.

Sale Location

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor 110 South Eutaw Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 Phone: 410-962-0202

This sale is conducted in cooperation with James Reid Edwards Auction Service, Joppa, MD.

Order Of Sale

Session One: Wednesday Evening, May 20, 1998

6:00 P.M. Sharp. Lots 1265-1710

Session Two: Thursday Evening, May 21, 1998

6:00 P.M. Sharp. Lots 1711-2134

Place Of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will take place in the West Ballroom of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Phone: 410-962-0202.

Viewing Of Lots

All lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be on display in Salons A, B & C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor according to the following schedule.

Saturday, May 16, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Sunday, May 17, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Monday, May 18, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 19, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Tuesday, May 19, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 20, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Thursday, May 21, 1998: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. (Session Two Only)

Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from April 27, 1998, through May 12, 1998, except weekends, **by appointment only.** Due to the anticipated interest in this sale, it is recommended that individuals intending to view all, or even a large portion of the sale, call for an appointment to see the lots in Rochester. Viewing space in Rochester is restricted, but we will accommodate as many individuals as possible. Early reservations are strongly recommended. **No lots will be available for viewing in Florida.**

Delivery Of Lots

Lots will be delivered to qualified, successful bidders according to the following schedule.

Session One: Thursday morning, May 21, 1998

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon only

Sessions One and Two: Friday morning, May 22, 1998

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon only

Any lots picked up in Baltimore will be subject to all applicable state and local taxes. Lots not picked up in Baltimore will be mailed to successful bidders. **No lots will be delivered until paid for in full.**

Mail Bids

All mail bids should be sent as follows.

By Mail: David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

P.O. Box 373

Stuart, FL 34995-0373

By Fax: 561-223-1964

By Phone: 561-781-4200 (Must be confirmed in writing)

After Thursday, May 14, 1998, all mail bids must be sent to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor c/o David W. Akers.

Acknowledgements

Many people have made significant contributions to this catalogue and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge each one of them for their efforts. So, my sincerest thanks: To Tom Mulvaney for his superb photography and his assistance in organizing and cataloguing the sale. To Don Slouffman for his assistance in organizing and cataloguing the sale. To Polly Pittman for her assistance in organizing the collection and for providing me with her father's notes, catalogues and ledgers, as well as information concerning his acquisition of the 1868 Proof Set. To Stuart Levine and Sheridan Downey for attributing the Bust Half Dollars according to Overton variety. To Russell Logan for information concerning Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollars. To John McCloskey for information concerning the Classic Head Quarter Eagles and Charlotte and Dahlonega Mint Quarter Eagles. To Ed Price for information concerning the 1804 13 Stars Reverse Quarter Eagle. To Martin Gengerke for information concerning the uncut currency sheets. To Bob Campbell for information concerning the Mormon paper money. To Deborah Unger for being able to read my handwriting and decipher my dictation while typing the catalogue manuscript. To my wife, Sharron Akers, and daughter, Heather Akers, for putting up with an absentee husband and father and for keeping the light on at home. To Grady Hayes and Mari Hayes for their work in producing the finished version of the catalogue.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude is extended to Mrs. Gehring C. Pittman and the Pittman Family for entrusting me with the enviable and pleasurable task of cataloguing and selling one of the greatest numismatic collections of the Twentieth Century, the John Jay Pittman Collection.

David W. Akers Stuart, Florida

Terms Of Sale

- This is a public auction sale conducted by licensed and bonded auctioneers. All bids are per lot. No lots will be broken. Lots will be sold in numerical sequence unless the auctioneer otherwise directs.
- All lots shall be sold to the highest bidder as determined by the auctioneer. If any dispute arises during or after the sale of a lot (but during the session), the auctioneer shall have the right to re-open the lot and put it up for sale again. In all cases, the auctioneer's decision shall be final. For the bidder's protection, NO "UNLIMITED" OR "BUY" BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- 3. A 10% buyer's fee will be added to the "hammer price" of each lot as determined by the auctioneer. This 10% buyer's fee will be added to the invoice of each successful bidder regardless of a bidder's affiliation with any group or organization. Sales tax, if applicable, and any other tax, will be added to the total amount of each invoice including the buyer's charge.
- 4. ALL LOTS MUST BE PAID FOR IN FULL PRIOR TO DELIVERY WITHOUT EXCEPTION. Payments must be made by check or bank wire only and must be in U.S. funds. All remittances must be drawn on U.S. banks and made payable to "David Akers Numismatics, Inc." No credit cards or cash will be accepted for purchases or deposits. All checks must clear before lots will be delivered. Bids cannot be accepted from anyone under 18 years of age without a parent's or legal guardian's written consent guaranteeing prompt payment. Shipping, handling, postage, registration and insurance charges will be added for all lots delivered by mail.
- New bidders who previously have not established credit with David Akers Numismatics, Inc. (AKERS) must furnish satisfactory credit references or deposit 25% of their total bids before such bids will be accepted. Deposits submitted will be applied to purchases and any unused portion of such deposits will be promptly refunded. Any individual who plans to bid in excess of \$10,000, regardless of past credit arrangements with AKERS, must submit a 25% deposit on any planned bidding amount or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the bidder's bank equal to the full amount of any anticipated bidding. Such deposits or letters of credit must be received by AKERS no later than Thursday, May 14, 1998. In order to establish bidding limits, AKERS must have an upto-date pre-registration agreement on file. No bidding limit can be established for any bidder after Thursday, May 14, 1998. Bidding limits shall be determined for each bidder at the sole discretion of AKERS. Participation in this auction may be denied any individual who, in AKERS sole opinion, has had past or current credit problems with AKERS or any other numismatic firm.
- 6. All lots delivered in Maryland or Florida are subject to applicable state and local sales taxes, which are the sole responsibility of the buyer. Any buyer claiming exemption from such taxes must submit to AKERS a valid resale or exemption certificate or other proof of exemption, or be subject to any applicable tax. In the event any taxes are not collected at the time of sale, and a legal taxing authority subsequently determines that such taxes are due, the buyer agrees to pay such taxes on demand, plus any interest, penalties and legal fees, including attorney's fees, that may thereafter be assessed. If the legal entity purchasing the lots on which taxes are subsequently determined to be payable ceases to exist for any reason whatsoever, the individual bidding on behalf of that entity agrees to be personally liable for such taxes, interest, penalties and legal fees.
- 7. All items offered for sale in this catalogue are guaranteed to be authentic and from the John Jay Pittman Collection. No other consignments from any other source have been included in this sale. Authenticity does not include grading, attributions, die varieties, pedigrees, method of manufacture or any other portion of the written description of the coin or coins in any lot. Such information has been provided by AKERS solely as a convenience to bidders, and all bidders agree to make their own determination as to the correctness and/or value of this information. Any claim that a lot or portion of a multiple-item lot is not authentic must be made in writing to AKERS by registered mail within 21 days of the final sale date. The item in question must be returned to AKERS by registered, insured mail in its original sealed holder by June 22, 1998,

- without exception. If the lot contains more than one item, even if the authenticity is not questioned on all items in the lot, the entire lot must be returned. No returns will be accepted from any mail or floor bidder for any reason other than for reasons of authenticity as defined in this paragraph.
- 8. Title does not pass until lots are paid for in full. It is the responsibility and obligation of the Buyer to maintain insurance on any coins in his/her possession. Risk of loss is on the Buyer. By bidding in the sale, the bidder agrees to permit AKERS to file any financial statement permitted under the Uniform Commercial Code without debtor's signature, and to offset any accounts due, whether now or in the future, against funds or collateral in AKERS possession.
- 9. The auctioneer and/or AKERS reserve the right to open a lot at a reasonable price, to set bidding increments as they shall determine, and to refuse any bid which in the judgement of the auctioneer or AKERS is ridiculously low or believed not to be made in good faith. AKERS may open bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. AKERS may further bid on behalf of the seller, up to the amount of the reserve, by placing successive or consecutive bids for a lot, or by placing bids in response to other bidders. The auctioneer and/or AKERS may also bid for his, or its, own account and may have access to information concerning the lots, and items contained in them, that are not otherwise available to the public.
- 10. All mail bids must be sent to AKERS via mail or fax. Phone bids will be accepted only if subsequently confirmed by mail or fax. No information concerning previously received mail bids will be given by AKERS to any bidder or consignor. AKERS will enter and execute bids for mail bidders as a service only, and no commission will be charged for this service. Every effort will be made by AKERS to properly enter and execute all bids received by mail or fax, but AKERS assumes no liability for any errors in this regard, including failure to enter bids. By accepting a bidder's mail bids, AKERS assumes no additional obligation to mail bidder other than making its best effort to enter and execute the bids. When identical mail bids are received by AKERS for any lot, preference is given to the first bid received as determined by AKERS. A mail bid will take precedence over an identical floor bid, and a floor bidder must bid higher than the highest mail bid to be awarded any lot.
- 11. Auction sales are not approval sales. Any lot may be examined before bidding. No lots may be returned for any reason by mail or floor buyers (including those acting as agents for others). Exceptions will be made only for reason of authenticity under the provisions of Paragraph 7 of these Terms of Sale. AKERS reserves the right to postpone or cancel the sale without notice, should it in its sole discretion determine that such action is warranted. Any lot may be withdrawn without notice prior to the sale. Neither AKERS nor the consignor will have any obligation to the intended bidders as a result of any postponement, cancellation, or withdrawal.
- 12. AKERS cannot be responsible for errors in bidding. Please make certain that you bid on the correct lot and that your bid (plus the 10% buyer's fee) is the maximum amount that you are willing and able to pay. All bids not in even dollar amounts will be rounded down to the nearest dollar. All bid sheets, whether by mail or fax, must be signed to be accepted.
- 13. All photographs in this catalogue are of the actual coins being sold, but may not be actual size. In fact, most photographs have been enlarged.
- 14. AKERS, its employees, and the auctioneer are "insiders" and may have access to confidential information not otherwise available to the public with respect to value, provenance, availability, and other factors. Bidders should make themselves knowledgeable about the numismatic items on which they are bidders and avail themselves of the services of outside consultants, pricing guides, and other numismatic books and periodicals prior to bidding on any lot in this sale.
- 15. In order to be eligible to place a floor bid in this sale, you must have a bidder's number. This is obtained by filling out a registration card with all pertinent information requested, either by pre-registering with AKERS or registering prior to any session at the sale itself. All persons

Terms Of Sale

- seeking to bid, whether in person, by an agent or employee, or by mail, must also have a catalogue. By submitting a bid, whether in person, by mail, or through an employee or agent, the bidder acknowledges receipt of the catalogue, and agrees to adhere to these Terms of Sale. The auctioneer may decline to recognize any bidder who does not have a catalogue and has not registered and been given a bidder number. The auctioneer and/or AKERS, in their sole discretion, may also refuse to accept the mail or floor bid of any bidder who has not satisfied the terms of Paragraph 5 of these Terms of Sale concerning credit and bidding limits.
- 16. Grading is a subjective description that represents the opinion of the cataloguer as to the state of preservation of a particular coin or lot. "Proof" is used to describe a method of manufacture and is not a grade or condition. All such terms, including adjectival and numerical descriptions of coins and other numismatic items, are the opinion of AKERS and are not an attribution. No warranty, whether expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability, is made with respect to such adjectival or numerical descriptions, which can and do vary among experts; nor is any warranty or representation made that any other expert, grading service or other entity will grade a given piece the same as AKERS does; nor is any warranty or representation made that a coin or other numismatic item has not been cleaned or repaired, or that the toning of any item is natural, or that there is the absence of any other defect which would render it unsuitable for encapsulation by any grading service or the acceptance by a third party. By bidding on any lot in this sale, the bidder warrants that he/she has determined a grade for the lot, and is bidding an amount that he/she considers appropriate for the lot. Bidder also warrants that he/she has independently determined the appropriate attribution and method of manufacture, if such information is important to him/her, and has considered all other factors he/she deems necessary to determine and place his/her bids.
- 17. AKERS reserves the right to impose a late charge, based solely upon Buyer's failure to remit full and timely payment, and which late charge is not related to any necessary storage of the material purchased. Said late charge is calculated at a rate of 1 1/2% per month (18% per annum), based on the purchase price if payment has not been made in accordance with these Terms of Sale. Purchases not collected and paid for within thirty (30) days of the date of sale may, at the sole option of AKERS, be resold for Buyer's account by AKERS, with Buyer liable for any deficit after AKERS receives a commission for the same in accordance with its agreement, and thereafter deducts all expenses associated with the sale. If the account is referred to any attorney or collection agency for collection, the buyer agrees to pay a 3% charge on the unpaid balance, plus all costs, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees, sheriff's charges, court costs, and collection agency fees, with interest accruing on the balance, until fully paid, at the previously specified rate. (The 3% charge will be used to cover certain administrative charges which AKERS may incur in the collection of this debt.)
- 18. All oral and written statements made by AKERS, its agents and employees, and those showing its lots, are statements of opinion only and are not warranties or representations of any kind. No employee or agent of AKERS has the authority to vary or alter these Terms of Sale in any manner whatsoever.
- 19. By bidding in this sale, even if for a corporation, or as an agent for another individual or firm, a bidder personally guarantees prompt payment, and adherence to all Terms of Sale. Each bidder acknowledges that he/she is bidding in this sale primarily for commercial purposes, and for eventual resale.
- 20. In the event of an error in attribution, a significant cataloguing error, or typographical error, which, in the sole opinion of AKERS, materially affects the value of a lot, AKERS reserves the right to withdraw the lot from the sale or correct the error orally at the time of sale, at AKERS sole discretion.
- 21. By purchasing in this sale, Buyer agrees that he/she shall have no recourse against the consignor for any reason whatsoever. Buyer further agrees that if any numismatic item purchased at this sale is damaged by its removal from the holder in which it is placed for lot viewing, or damaged by being left in said holder, or damaged by encapsulation at any

- third party grading service, or damaged in any other way whatsoever after Buyer has taken possession of said numismatic item, such damage is the sole risk of the Buyer.
- 22. Unless otherwise stated, AKERS acts only as agent for the Consignor and makes no independent warranty of title. AKERS offers the following LIMITED WARRANTY to Buyers with respect to all numismatic items offered for sale. AKERS warrants to all Buyers that the Consignor has warranted good title to property offered for sale. Any such warranty is predicated on the Owner or prior owner making the same warranty to AKERS, upon which AKERS relies. In the event that it is finally determined that the Buyer has not acquired transferable title, AKERS shall reimburse the Buyer (if full payment has already been made) in accordance with these Terms of Sale, and Buyer agrees that this is full compensation for any loss whatsoever, whether actual or otherwise. Tender of the check by AKERS to Buyer at the address specified on the bid sheet or registration form shall end the obligation of AKERS to the Buyer, even if the check is not endorsed or cashed. AKERS and the Consignor make no representations or warranty that the Purchaser acquires any reproduction rights or copyright in property purchased at the sale.
- 23. AKERS further expressly disclaims all warranties relating to the grade, condition, identification of the periods or date of coining or manufacture or methods of manufacture of property which is inaccurate, or may be proved inaccurate, by means of scientific process or research which is not generally accepted for use until after the sale.
- 24. All rights granted to the Buyer under the Terms of Sale are personal to the Buyer. Buyer may not assign or transfer any of these rights to any other person or entity, whether by operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt so to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely VOID and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms of Sale. Buyer shall mean the original purchaser of the property from AKERS and not any subsequent owner or other person who may have or acquire an interest therein. If Buyer is an agent, the agency must be disclosed at the time of sale, otherwise the benefits deriving from the Terms of Sale shall be limited to the agent and not transferable to the undisclosed principal.
- 25. AKERS reminds all bidders that grading, attribution, and method of manufacture are crucial to the determination of the value of any numismatic item. By bidding in this sale, bidder agrees that he/she has made his/her own determination of these and other factors and is not relying on any information printed in this catalogue, which has been provided by AKERS solely as a convenience to bidders. AKERS makes no representation whatsoever that any lot purchased in this sale is obtained by Buyer at a price that is appropriate under current market conditions, or that any item purchased can be sold in the future for an amount that is greater than or equal to the price paid in the sale. The coin market is speculative and unregulated. AKERS advises bidders that numismatic items should not be purchased solely for investment purposes, or based on claims of past or potential future appreciation in value. AKERS neither makes nor implies any such claims and recommends that the bidder conduct his/her own market research to determine whether or not the purchase of any numismatic item in this sale is appropriate or desirable.
- 26. By bidding in this sale, bidder agrees that the transaction shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Any dispute, claim or controversy (except for non-payment) shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration under the rules then in effect of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. (PNG), as if both parties to the dispute were members, at Stuart, Florida, or another suitable location at the sole option of AKERS. In the event of non-payment, at its option, AKERS may refer the matter to PNG arbitration, or elect to proceed judicially, in which case, the Buyer consents to jurisdiction in the courts of Martin County, Florida. In all cases, the maximum liability of AKERS for any item sold shall be limited to the official Price Realized, which shall be defined to be the hammer price as determined by the auctioneer plus the 10% Buyer's Fee.
- 27. Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all the foregoing terms and conditions.

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John Jay Pittman 1913 - 1996

John Jay Pittman was a collector. To understand him, one has to understand the idea of a collector in the broadest sense. Webster's Dictionary defines "collector" as one who makes a collection of things, in sets or as an aggregate; one who assembles or accumulates; one who accrues items to keep. JJP was the epitome of a collector. He collected stamps, not in the way he collected coins, but he saved in envelopes all the foreign stamps from his correspondence with other coin collectors. He collected catalogues (one to use, one to save). He collected (amassed?) all the ribbons from all the shows he ever attended. He collected papers from the establishment of a college, indenture papers from early colonial settlers, deeds for tracts of land sold to towns by native peoples of Canada, papers from the troubled times of pre-Civil War United States. He collected bar money and shoe money, Malayan mat money, shell money, and Chinese coins from pre-modern history.

He seemed to collect safe deposit boxes — Palatka, Largo, San Antonio, Spartanburg, Rocky Mount, Westmont, Modesto, Louisville, and 19 boxes in three banks in Rochester. He collected places. The National Geographic influenced and enchanted his imagination. He had dreams to explore certain places in the world and as he grew older, he made sure that his children knew which places they were supposed to "collect " for him. He had something from almost every place that ever was or still is. He collected wines (and wine bottle labels). But most of all, JJP collected stories and memories and friendships with people.

He was intense in his feelings for family and friends. He had nicknames for many people, both his peers and his children, their friends, and his grandchildren. "Old Cotton-picker" used to call at all hours of the night to chat, and JJP and his neighborhood friend "Pepperdoodle" used to eat catfish at least twice a year. His son was "Jay-bird", his daughters were "Psquared" and "Dingsy-B". Neighborhood youngsters had names such as "Gus-dusted" and "Wire-screens". "Swoose", "Littleman", "Tar-baby", "The Pence", "Big Son", and "Liza Jane" were pet names of grandchildren.

He was always making up words. He liked the way some words or sounds had a sing-song quality about them. When we were young we were certain anything strange had to be from his imagination. How surprised we were when we later realized there was a real place called Okeechobee or Oswegatchie or Memphremagog. We played geography games when we drove places in the car and always the games lasted for many miles. Every time he saw historical roadside markers, JJP would stop so that we could appreciate the history.

Life with father, when Father was JJP, was not the idyllic life of "Father Knows Best" or "Leave it to Beaver." He was dedicated and proud, and he was a strict disciplinarian with a code of ethics that was very black and white. He expected that everyone would always do the best that they could. He had integrity. If he gave his word, he kept it. Sometimes it backfired on him. The most predictable behavior for us

was when he was involved in things that had to do with coins. Since he was always only half aware of what was going on around him, it was the perfect time to ask him for something.

Betsy and I wanted a horse when we were 10 and 13 years old respectively. We had figured out that with our baby-sitting money we could afford the monthly board charged at a farm a mile from our house. Dad was involved in something numismatic when we "torpedoed" him. While he was absorbed in the coins, we presented a very involved explanation of what we wanted and how we were going to finance it. He was only half listening, so he said, "Sure, fine," and went right on looking at his coins. The next day we told him he had promised to get us a horse. His pride would not let him renege on his promise. The horse was with us for 25 years! Dad used to get such a kick out of telling how he had been hoodwinked into buying that "hay burner".

JJP also lived in a different time zone from most of the world. He was a night owl. He preferred to drive at night. He would go searching for someone else who would stay up and talk with him at night. He sparkled and he shone in the wee hours of the morning and his mind was extremely sharp. However, it sometimes made it difficult to relate to other mere mortals. One school night Betsy wanted to go see a friend. Mom was out so Betsy asked Dad what time she should be home. He replied, "Ten o'clock." Ten was quite late, so she said, "Ten!" To which Dad said, "Eleven?" Betsy just smiled and came home about 9:30.

JJP was also often sensitive and thoughtful, though occasionally at almost inexplicable occasions. One night when Mom was visiting me while Dad was on a coin trip to Michigan, I got a late phone call (2 a.m.) to tell me that I had the most wonderful mother in the world and that he hoped I properly appreciated her. His idea of remembering birthdays was unique. As early as two weeks before a birthday he would say something like, "Happy Birthday in 13 days, in case I forget." He would repeat the process any number of times until the appointed day. Occasionally on the actual birthday he might not remember, but one knew it had been on his mind for ages, so there was no disappointment.

JJP was the ultimate collector. Once, on the way to the airport in Philadelphia, Mom and Dad had to go through a toll booth. As the attendant handed the change and there was a shiny sparkle, JJP asked to see the change, and took out his loupe to inspect the latest acquisitions. There are literally dozens of small paper bags of pocket change with notes on where it had been acquired and whether it had been checked yet.

JJP's collecting spirit also is reflected in other ways in his collection. Because of the way he looked at an object, he often purchased coins that no one else would have been likely to buy. In his collection is a severely bent silver Washington Quarter in not particularly good condition, but he paid money for it. He paid good money for a Libertas Americana medal with a hole in it. The hole was square as if it had been punched with an old square nail. JJP was

JJP

convinced that the medal had been used as jewelry by an American Indian, so he bought it. Although he collected some spectacular rarities and condition rarities, he also collected some of the most surprising oddities and numismatic "stories" or coins with stories. He knowingly purchased obvious fakes such as a "spurious" 1913 "V" nickel and two "Rochester" counterfeit 1936 Canadian "Dot" cents on which it was so obvious that the metal had been added to the coin. Indeed, in showing how fake they were, the "dot" actually fell off of one of them. He enjoyed the laughter and the foolishness of the counterfeits as he came across

them because of the story which went with them. It is one of the things which made JJP the unique collector he was.

In examining his collection we see JJP. The magic of the collector was defined in what he sought and bought. Ultimately, the fabric of his life was intertwined with the threads of the fascination of his dreams. He was as unique as the collection which he created.

Polly Edwards Pittman Rochester, New York



John Jay and Gehring Pittman at an ANA Banquet

Introduction

John Jay Pittman was one of the true titans of numismatics, known personally to almost everyone who attended a numismatic convention, auction, or coin club meeting in the past half century. With his wife, Gehring, he traveled extensively throughout the United States, and literally to the ends of the earth to pursue his passion for numismatics.

During my long career as a professional numismatist, I have met many wonderful people, all of whom enjoyed the hobby and loved their coins. But I can say without hesitation that I never met anyone who loved coins, coin collecting, and coin collectors as much as John Jay Pittman loved them. John spent most of his adult life collecting coins, but I think what he really enjoyed the most was the "show-and-tell" aspect of the hobby. From the very beginning of his numismatic journey in the 1940's, when he joined the

Rochester, New York, Coin Club, and the American Numismatic Association, he loved to display and talk about his coins. At countless conventions and coin club meetings throughout the country, John constantly displayed various treasures from his collection. I do not think it hyperbole to state that no one in history ever won as many "First Place" or "Best of Show" awards as did John Jay Pittman. He actually became so embarrassed at always winning awards for his displays that he worried that others would become discouraged and not display their coins. So, in his later years, he generally displayed only in non-competitive fashion so that others might compete, win, and ultimately receive the same satisfaction that he had enjoyed so many times over the years.

John Jay Pittman's desire to show and talk about his coins was not limited to doing so on the formal basis of competitive exhibits or ANA style lectures, both of which he did for decades. What really gave him pleasure was showing his coins one-on-one to an individual who would then sit and talk to him about coins for hours. It is amazing how many people have told me a story about John bringing a particular item to a convention or coin club meeting, just to show them. Of course, he almost always showed the item to many others as well, but John had a unique way of making people feel that he was giving them a private, confidential, viewing; and, in a way, he was.

John Jay Pittman loved looking at other people's coins as well. He always took the time to examine virtually every coin I ever had on display at the conventions I attended, and he always wanted to know all of the details. To John, the true pleasure of collecting was in the details, and he wanted to know where and how the coins had been acquired, and who had owned them previously; he rarely asked what any coin had cost. He examined coins at many other tables, as well as all of the exhibits, and he would often ask me if I had seen a given coin. If I had not, he recommended that I do so as soon as possible in order that we might talk about it later; often, we immediately went together to see the coin in question. If I was going to attend a particular auction, he would ask me to examine coins in which he had a special interest, once again with the idea that later we



David W. Akers

would discuss them in depth. John had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge about coins, but current value and "investment potential" were not of great interest or importance to him. He rarely, if ever, purchased a coin with a concern as to how much it might be worth someday. After all, he never planned on selling it anyway! It was the history, the beauty, the rarity, the story behind the coin, that intrigued John, and this is what made him the ultimate collector, and an incredibly knowledgeable one at that. Very few people, including professional numismatists and serious numismatic students alike, possessed the breadth and depth of numismatic knowledge that John Jay Pittman had at his command.

He had a remarkable memory that constantly amazed me and everyone who knew him. He could remember and recite the most minute details of a coin he had seen, or a numismatic transaction or event in which he had been involved, years, even decades, later. His memory was so excep-

tional that in most cases he did not keep extensive written records of the facts related to items in his collection. From his perspective, he did not need to, simply because he clearly remembered them. Unfortunately, with his death, most of the priceless stories and details of his collecting journey that spanned more than half a century, passed into history with him. I have been able to reconstruct much of the more mundane information such as when, where, from whom, and for how much John purchased an item, from various notes, ledgers, catalogues, and coin envelopes, but the information that John prized most, the "story" behind the purchase or acquisition, has not survived as often as we all would have liked.

The story of the building of the John Jay Pittman Collection is as remarkable as the man who built it. John showed a preliminary interest in coins as a young boy of 10 when his grandmother gave him a collection of Mexican coins, but he first became really serious about collecting in early 1943. At that time, he wrote to virtually every major coin dealer in the country (unlike today, there were not all that many nationally prominent ones half a century ago) and first asked for price lists, auction catalogues, and reference books. Before he spent significant sums on coins, he spent both time and money acquiring knowledge, a trait which served him well for the next 50 plus years. He continued reading and learning throughout his life, and he examined countless thousands of coins with his now famous black metal magnifying glass, looking for and remembering details that others missed.

Some of the famous dealers of that era with whom John first corresponded and later developed both a personal and business relationship were B. Max Mehl, Abe Kosoff, Sol Kaplan, James ("Diamond Jim") Kelly, Barney Bluestone, George Bauer, David Bullowa, Abner Kreisberg, Charles Wormser, Stack's, Michael Kolman, Jim Charlton, Wayte Raymond, and many others, large and small, domestic and foreign. The in-depth knowledge that John possessed earned him great respect from all of these numismatic legends, and they correctly recognized him as a man of great character and ability. Even the venerable B. Max Mehl, who rarely, if ever, admitted in print the expertise or even

Introduction

the existence of other numismatists, once referred to John (in his famous Golden Jubilee Sale catalogue in 1950 when John was only 37 years old) as a man, "Whom I (Mehl) consider one of the keenest students of U.S. proof coins", and then quoted a letter John had written him concerning the Proof 1846 Silver Dollar. Such a personal mention was unprecedented in a Mehl catalogue; Mehl also often sent catalogue copy to John for review and comments prior to printing!

John Jay Pittman's collecting interests were eclectric to say the least. With the exception of ancient and medieval coins, John collected just about everything and from every country imaginable. This catalogue of Part Two of the collection offers for sale the final portion of JIP's collection of United States coins and features wonderful selections of Quarters, Half Dollars, Silver and Trade Dollars, Quarter Eagles, Three Dollar Gold pieces, and Eagles. Also contained in this sale is the second of JJP's two Gem Proof 1835 Half Eagles and three early Proof sets in original cases, two of which, the 1845 and 1846, contain the gold coins. The rarity and quality that characterized the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, in October 1997, are in equal abundance here, and I do not think that I am being overly enthusiastic when I state that this sale long will be remembered as one of the greatest numismatic auctions of the Twentieth Century. In addition to the aforementioned Proof 1835 Half Eagle and 1845 and 1846 Proof Sets, the highlights of this second sale are JJP's Proof 1838 and 1848 Eagles. The 1838 Eagle is one of the most highly prized and important items in the Pittman Collection; in fact, in JIP's eyes, it was the premier coin in his entire collection.

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Three, will be held in 1999 and will consist of JIP's marvelous collection of World Coins. As I mentioned, JIP collected coins from just about every country imaginable, including almost every one that has been in existence since the 1600's. But a few countries are more prominently featured in the collection than others, including Canada, Great Britain, Cuba, Japan, Russia, Australia, Mexico, Sweden and South Africa, to name the most obvious ones. As was the case with his U.S. collection, JJP's collection of World Coins is especially notable for the quality and rarity of the coins it contains. There are so many highlights that it is not possible to mention all of them here, but a few of the more important items in the collection are the complete original 1936 "Dot" set from Canada, the only such set in existence; the 1862 British Columbia \$20 in gold; an 1880 Japanese presentation Proof set including gold coins; a 1916 Cuba 20 Pesos in Proof; an English 1662 Charles II Crown in gold; an Adelaide ingot from Australia; Proof sets of 1826, 1831, 1839 and 1853 from Great Britain; pattern gold coins from Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela; a mint state 1921 Canadian Half Dollar; the finest known Uncirculated 1889 10 Cents and 1871 50 Cents from Canada; Russian platinum coins in Proof; original Proof and presentation sets from various countries; and much, much more. This will be one of the most important sales of World Coins ever held in the United States and I cordially invite all of the readers of this catalogue to attend the sale in person. It will be an event to remember.

Most people have always assumed that John Jay Pittman was a financially wealthy man. Rumors have abounded for years that (a) he was extremely wealthy with vast holdings of Kodak stock, for whom he worked for over 35 years; or (b), his wife, Gehring, came from a very wealthy family; or (c) both of the foregoing. Actually, none of the rumors is even close to true. The truth is that John Jay Pittman managed to assemble one of the greatest collections of our time with limited financial resources. He was

always on a restricted budget and so knowledge and opportunity were crucial to his success. He acquired the knowledge he needed and then took full advantage of the buying opportunities that were presented to him. But because of his financial limitations, he always had to make choices. For example, he could have afforded to buy famous rarities such as the 1804 Dollar, 1894-S Dime, 1913 Nickel etc., only if he had given up buying everything else. So he made the choice very early in his numismatic career to largely forego the famous, classic rarities and instead buy coins that were equally rare, but comparatively unappreciated, and thus undervalued. It was this kind of rationale that led John to collect early U.S. Proof coins. Back in the 1940's and 1950's, they were relatively in-expensive, especially when compared to the

classic rarities, and so by purchasing Proofs instead of popular rarities, John felt he was able to make his limited coin budget stretch much further than it would have otherwise. In later years, as U.S. coin prices escalated, pushing the types of coins he liked to buy out of his price range, he restricted his purchases mostly to foreign coins, thereby enabling him to acquire a collection of truly international



The Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, ANA's highest honor, was awarded to John Jay Pittman in 1980. This medal will not be sold in the Pittman Collection sales; it will be retained by the Pittman family.

scope. After John retired from Kodak in 1971, he had very little extra money to spend on coins, but he still managed to acquire some outstanding pieces by trading either duplicates or coins he was willing to give up to acquire coins he wanted more.

Not only were John Jay Pittman's collecting tastes extremely wide ranging, he also could legitimately be described as an "equal opportunity" buyer; his sources were as varied as his tastes and over the years he purchased from an incredibly diverse group of sellers. Of course, he was a very big buyer at auctions, but he also would buy a single coin from an individual he had not known previously, or ever saw again. Often, he remembered the seller only by a description, such as "the man at the end of the room", "the old guy at the bar", or "the stringy haired blonde in the silver Porsche". But he always remembered every detail of the transaction, and most especially, the coins themselves. He rarely, if ever, used an agent in the traditional sense, although on occasion he did have someone bid for him at a sale he was unable to attend. However, John always inspected every coin himself and relied entirely on his own knowledge and good judgement. For me, the most amazing aspect of the John Jay Pittman Collection is that John built it entirely on his own, from scratch, one coin at a time, with limited financial resources at his disposal. I do not know of any other collection of comparable diversity, quality, and value that was assembled under similar conditions. So John Jay Pittman's collection, in many ways, is as unique and "one-of-a-kind" as he was.

Introduction

As I have mentioned, John Jay Pittman was an inveterate auction buyer from a fairly early stage of his numismatic adventure. Although he made some important auction purchases in 1946 (at the "World's Greatest Collection" sale, and the William C. Atwater sale to name just two sales in which he participated that year), the first sale in which he was a major participant was B. Max Mehl's sale of the collection of the Abilene, Kansas, pharmacist, Will W. Neil, in June 1947. John purchased a number of great coins at that sale (all bids were mail bids in Mehl's sales so John's participation was from the comfort of his own living room in Rochester, New York), including the famous 1802 Half Dime which was the first, and one of the very few, classic date rarities John ever purchased. Over the next decade and a half, John actively bid in many sales, but it is apparent that a relatively small number of famous "name" sales served as the sources for many of his most important acquisitions. In addition to the Neil sale in 1947, the sales that figured the most prominently in John's building of his collection were the Allenburger/Renz Collections sale (called "A Royal Sale" by Mehl) in 1948, the "Memorable Collection" sale (Numismatic Gallery, 1948), Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection) in 1950, Numismatic Gallery's 1950 Menjou sale, David Bullowa's May 1952 sale, the Palace Collections of Egypt (King Farouk) sale of 1954, the Thomas Melish Collection sale (A. Kosoff, 1956), and the Milton Holmes Collection sale (Stack's, 1960). Of course, John bid in many other sales as well, especially in the annual ANA Convention sales from 1946 on, and numerous Barney Bluestone, Wayte Raymond and New Netherlands sales in the 1940's, but the big "name" sales just mentioned were the most significant in terms of the quantity and quality of the pieces he purchased.



Medal issued by the Rochester Numismatic Association to commemorate JJP's term as 38th President in 1950. Struck in gold from bullion supplied by JJP— Unique! This medal will not be sold in the Pittman Collection sales; it will be retained by the Pittman family.

Special mention must be made of the Farouk sale, held in Cairo, Egypt, in late February and early March of 1954. Both John and Gehring attended the sale in person (among the few Americans brave enough to do so) and, without question, this sale was the defining moment of John's numismatic career. At the sale, he spent an amount that for him was an enormous sum of money, far more than he had ever spent before, or did subsequently. His purchases at the Farouk sale included many of his rarest and most significant coins which ultimately formed the foundation of his great collection, but the trip itself was made with considerable potential risk, both financial and personal. To finance the trip, and to pay for his purchases, John had to take out a second mortgage on his home; for a man who basically eschewed debt, especially long-term debt, all his life, this was a commitment of monumental proportions. It was not until nearly six years later that he was able to finally pay off this debt in full, and to do so, he had to part with some of his much beloved Proof coins.

In this catalogue, I have paid particular attention to the pedigrees of the coins since I feel they tell a great deal about the effort required and time spent by John Jay Pittman in assembling this great collection one coin at a time; they are also the key ingredient in the historical record of the collection. Pedigree's have been checked and double checked against John's coin envelopes, ledgers, occasional invoices, and the auction catalogues where applicable. However, despite the care taken, the reader should be aware that errors are always possible in the area of pedigrees, especially when no photographs appear in the catalogues to match with the actual coins themselves; unfortunately, this lack of photographs is usually the case with coins sold in the 1940's and 1950's when John Jay Pittman purchased most of his coins. Nevertheless, it is believed that the pedigrees are accurate as stated.

John Jay Pittman, the ultimate collector, would have found it difficult to be here to see his collection sold if he were alive today. He loved his coins almost as if they were members of his family, and parting with them would have brought him sorrow, not joy, regardless of how much money they realized. For John Jay Pittman, his coins did not represent money, wealth, or security. They were an integral part of the tightly woven fabric of his life, an end in themselves rather than a means to an end. In no small measure, they were an essential aspect of the man himself. Separating John Jay Pittman, the man, from John Jay Pittman, the collector, is not possible; they are the same, fused into one endearing human being who will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

John Jay Pittman passed away on February 17, 1996, just a few hours shy of his 83rd birthday. He lived a long and accomplished life and left behind not only his family and closest friends, but a legion of acquaintances and admirers. The field of numismatics and the hobby of coin collecting have been tremendously enhanced by John Jay Pittman's presence and personality, perhaps more so than by any other individual in the second half of the Twentieth Century. It is my sincerest hope that this catalogue (and those of the other John Jay Pittman Collection sales) does honor to his memory, and will stand as a fitting tribute to his towering numismatic achievement.

David W. Akers Stuart, Florida













































































The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Two

Session One

Lots 1265-1710 Wednesday, May 20, 1998 6:00 P.M. Sharp

U.S. QUARTERS

BORDERLINE UNCIRCULATED 1804 QUARTER





1265. 1804, Browning-1. High Rarity-3, possibly even Rarity-4. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state and likely to be so graded by many. Very sharply struck and well centered. Attractive, warm medium gray and golden toning with some iridescent highlights near the borders. Broad, even denticles on the reverse, less distinct ones on the obverse. There are also some light adjustment marks at various places on the obverse rim as well as across the drapery. A tiny die break runs from a denticle through the right side of the 0 in the date to the bust. There are clash marks near the neck and draped bust and there is a prominent die scratch between the 8th and 9th stars; the left foot of Y in LIBERTY is missing. There are several

light old scratches on the face, but the fields are very clean with only a few scattered marks. There is a slight rounding of the edge, "as made", above LI in LIBERTY. JJP purchased this coin from A.H. Baldwin & Son of London, England on March 24, 1954, for the equivalent of \$60 U.S.

The Mint record indicates that 6,738 pieces were struck in 1804, but it is possible that some of the Quarters reported minted in 1805 were actually dated 1804. This is a very rare issue, particularly in the higher grades, much more so than the 1796. Among all known 1804 Quarters, only a handful are fully mint state, and so this piece, although perhaps just outside the Condition Census, is almost certainly one of the finest 10-12 pieces known. It is superior to the Eliasberg specimen and most others that have appeared on the market in recent years.

MINT STATE 1805 QUARTER

Possibly Finest Known Example Of The Rare Browning-4 Variety





1266. 1805, B-4. Rarity-4. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category with all of the apparent "wear" actually a function of a weak strike. This weak striking is the result of worn dies and is characteristic of this variety and most other 1805 Quarter varieties as well. This is a beautiful coin, particularly from the standpoint of its toning which is medium reddish-gold in the centers turning first to violet, then blue and bluish-green at the borders. There are a few very trivial hairlines and contact marks in the fields, but the overall appearance of this coin is outstanding. The left foot of the 1 in the date and T in LIBERTY are missing, as is the right foot of the

I in LIBERTY. In the star pattern above the eagle on the reverse, star 4 is so weak that it is nearly invisible. There is tremendous luster under the toning and I think that most viewers will find this to be an especially beautiful 1805 Quarter. JJP purchased this as Lot 169 from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 12/6/47, for \$17.50.

This B-4 variety is a very rare one and, as Breen notes in the 1992 updated version of the Browning reference on Early Quarters, "Most survivors are in low grades", and he lists the AU Norweb: 1516 specimen as the finest example known. This piece is distinctly superior to the Norweb specimen and thus it may well be the finest known example of the variety.





1267. 1806/5, B-1. Rarity-2. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck on the central design devices, but weak at the borders with virtually no denticle detail showing. Medium blue-green and reddish-gold toning. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as several small digs in the left obverse field. This variety was minted using the dies for the preceding 1805 B-4 with a 6 punched over the 5. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, Lot 644, for \$20.50.

UNCIRCULATED 1806 QUARTER

Rare Browning-2 Variety





1268. 1806, B-2. Rarity-4. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Rather softly struck with a slight weakness on Liberty's hair by her neck and on the eagle's head, neck, and breast feathers, the top of the shield, and the stars directly above the eagle's head. The denticles on both sides are very weak or missing except at the bottom (below the date and below the eagle), and the stars are also flat and show no detail whatsoever. All of these factors, of course, are the result of weak striking and/or poor quality dies and are typical of virtually all examples of this rare variety, which according to Breen in the Browning update is, "Not often available in mint state".

This coin has excellent luster and beautiful toning, reddish-gold in the centers turning to violet and blue-green at the borders. There are a few very light marks and hairlines in the fields, but nothing really serious. However, there appears to be minor damage, possibly from grinding, in the milling below 80 of the date. There is also some unusual toning just below the date and at the corresponding position on the reverse at ES in STATES that may or may not be related to the problem on the edge. This specimen is almost certainly in the Condition Census for this rare variety. Purchased by JJP from Wayte Raymond's 2/27/48 sale, Lot 417, for \$31.





1269. 1807, B-1a (Die State 4 of B-1). Rarity-2. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck on the bust and eagle, but very weak at the borders as usual for this date and variety. Probably cleaned at one time, now with medium but irregular multicolored toning in shades of gold, violet and blue-green. The milling is very weak and even missing in places on the edge. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, Lot 645, for \$18 where it was optimistically described (especially by Barney Bluestone's usual conservative standards) as, "Pract. Unc.", and having, "Considerable mint luster toning to a very attractive steel and purple".

BEAUTIFUL AND VERY CHOICE 1815 QUARTER



1270. 1815, B-1. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. This is a really beautiful example of this first year of type. It is very sharply struck with full detail on the bust of Liberty and eagle, and with every one of the obverse stars having all of its radial lines. The denticles are broad, even and well defined on both sides except at the top of the obverse where they are a little less distinct. The luster is excellent and the toning is especially beautiful, light reddish-gold in the centers with deeper blue-green at the borders highlighted with a trace of violet. There are two tiny rim nicks below the date that are scarcely noticeable. There are faint



clashmarks on both sides and this is the die state Breen refers to as Die State II. This coin is the same die state as the Eliasberg coin and is slightly more rare than specimens in the later die states which show various die cracks. As a date, the 1815 is not especially scarce since a number of mint state examples exist from a small hoard; however, coins of this caliber are very scarce, if not rare, and relatively few are this original and beautifully toned. Purchased by JJP as Lot 1393 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale on 10/4/47 for \$18.50.

MAGNIFICENT GEM 1818/5 QUARTER



1271. 1818/5, B-1. High Rarity-2, possibly Rarity-3. Gem Uncirculated. Struck from perfect dies with no clash marks or die breaks; rare as such. This coin is a magnificent specimen in all respects. Not only is it the finest 1818/5 Quarter that I have ever seen, it is also one of the highest quality and most beautiful Capped Bust Quarters of any date known to me. It is very sharply struck for the issue with just a little weakness on the shoulder clasp and on the eagle's left wing near the shield. The stars are all bold and every one has all of its radial lines. The denticles are broad and even on both sides and the fields are nearly immaculate and pristine with only a few microscopic marks. The lustrous surfaces are covered by absolutely superb medium multicolored toning, a gorgeous blend of russet, blue-green



and greenish-gold with a few violet highlights. This coin was formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection and was purchased by JJP as Lot 418 from the 1946 ANA Convention sale for \$33.

On this overdate variety, the original 5 can be seen clearly under the 8 with the top bar of the 5 inside the top loop of the 8 and the vertical of the 5 just outside the 8 to the left, between the upper and lower curves. Walter Breen, in his update of the Browning reference work on Early U.S. Quarters, refers to this as, "Die State 1. Perfect.", and notes that the state is rare. He further mentions this Col. Green specimen in his delineation of known examples. This coin is so outstanding that I think it likely that most viewers will consider it to be one of the most beautiful early mint state coins in the entire Pittman Collection, an extraordinary statement when one considers the remarkable quality of so many of the coins in this great collection.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE 1818 COUNTERSTAMPED QUARTER

"Houck's Panacea Baltimore" Counterstamp





1272. **1818, B-2.** Rarity-1 as variety, possibly Unique with counterstamp. Good. Counterstamped "Houck's/Panacea/Baltimore" on three lines inside a rectangle in the field in front of the face. Light gray and gold color. A long scratch in the right obverse field behind the head. Purchased from Maurice Storck at the 1972 ANA Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, for \$100.

Jacob Houck was a Baltimore businessman whose place of business was located at the corner of German and Hanover Streets. His panacea was, "Prepared solely from vegetable matter", and sold for \$1.50 a bottle. Houck placed his advertising counterstamp on numerous coins that were in circulation in that era. Nearly all of these counterstamped coins were Half Dollars, but a few Quarters and Silver Dollars, as well as some foreign coins, were also counterstamped. The earliest known U.S. coins that have the Houck's counterstamp are Half Dollars and Dollars of 1795. Of the few (less than 5) counterstamped Quarters known, this is the only 1818, indeed, the only Quarter of the Capped Bust type that is known. JJP so notes on his coin envelope by writing that this specimen is, "Very rare, maybe unique".

VERY CHOICE 1818 QUARTER



1273. **1818, B-3. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated.** This variety is actually the B-1 variety with the dies reground to remove clashmarks. On this variety, all evidence of the original overdate has disappeared and both of the 1's in

the date are missing the left foot of the base. This coin is very similar in appearance and quality to the 1815. It is very sharply struck with well defined denticles, very sharp stars having all their radial lines, and a bold portrait and eagle. The eagle does, however, have the characteristic weakness on the left wing near the shield. The surfaces are very lustrous and are covered with beautiful light reddish-gold central toning and deeper blue green shades near the borders. Clash marks are visible on the reverse and there is a prominent die break from a denticle through the lowest arrowhead and the top two arrow shafts. There are a few tiny marks in the fields as well as a few very light hairlines. There is also a very small planchet depression "as made" on Liberty's bust. This is a beautiful example of the most common issue of the type and its overall eye appeal exceeds its technical grade. This specimen was purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale on 10/4/47; it appeared in the sale as Lot 1394 and realized \$5.50.





1274. 1819, Large 9, B-2. High Rarity-3, possibly Rarity-4. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Square base 2 in the denomination. Medium blue green toning with central shades of reddish-gold. The reverse is fully mint state and really quite choice with only a few trivial contact marks and faint hairlines. The obverse, however, shows definite signs of friction and also has some light hairlines in the fields. A die break connects stars 2 through 7 on the left side of the obverse with another smaller, thinner die break running from the point of the 7th star to the area above the cap. Still another die break connects stars 10-13 and continues almost to the outer edge of the 9 in the date. This coin is very sharply struck and well centered. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, Lot 1395, for \$5.50.

This variety is easily identified by the prominent center dot on the obverse which appears directly below Liberty's earlobe and by the very low D in UNITED on the reverse. The two Large 9 varieties of 1819 are both much more rare than the common B-3 variety, which is the Small 9 variety. Most Large 9 examples seen are typically in low grades, i.e. Very Fine or lower, and specimens at this grade level are moderately rare.

POSSIBLE ONE-SIDED PROOF 1820 QUARTER

Very Rare Browning-5 Variety





1275. 1820, Small 0, B-5. High Rarity-6. Choice Almost Uncirculated, possibly struck as a one-sided Proof since the obverse has deep mirrorlike fields and the reverse is fully frosty. There is evidence of die rust on the obverse between stars 2 and 3 and between stars 9 and 10, as well as a small patch of rust out into the field between stars 2 and 3 on a line toward the chin. The coin is very sharply struck except on the head of the eagle; clashmarks are evident on the reverse around the eagle and near the scroll. This piece has beautiful medium multicolored toning with reddish-gold and violet in the centers and deeper shades of blue and greenishgold near the borders. There are some light hairlines and contact marks throughout the fields, especially noticeable in the fully prooflike obverse field. Purchased by JJP as Lot 1396 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, for \$4.50.

As stated in the preceding paragraph, there is the distinct possibility that this piece was struck as a one-sided Proof. However, it is equally possible that it is just highly prooflike on the obverse due to heavy polishing of the dies to remove the obvious rust, vestiges of which still are visible. This variety, B-5, has the obverse of B-4 and the reverse of B-2. It was not in the original Browning text and was discovered by Walter Breen in 1951. This is a very rare variety with perhaps no more than 12-15 specimens known to exist, most of them in low grades. If this coin is a business strike, it ranks as the second or third finest known of the variety. But if it is a one-sided Proof, then it is undoubtedly unique. It is strongly suggested that interested viewers examine this coin carefully in order to make their own determination of its original minting status. Note: This is the only variety of 1820 Quarter that was not present in the Eliasberg Collection that was sold in April 1997. (This is no doubt due to the fact that this variety was not yet known at the time the great Eliasberg Collection was formed.)





1276. **1821**, **B-3**. **Rarity-2**. **Almost Uncirculated.** The obverse is almost fully prooflike, the reverse mostly frosty, but with just a hint of a prooflike surface. The coin has very attractive, medium multicolored toning with shades of violet, blue, russet and greenish-gold. Clashmarks are evident on the obverse, especially just below Liberty's ear, and there is evidence of die rust to the left of the 2 in the denomination. Purchased by JJP for \$5 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, Lot 1397.

SUPERBLY TONED GEM UNCIRCULATED 1821 QUARTER

Finest Known Example Of Extremely Rare B-6 Variety





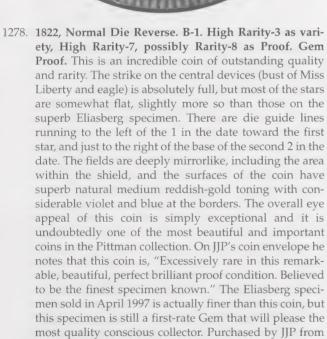
1277. 1821, B-6. High Rarity-7, possibly Rarity-8. Gem Uncirculated. This is an utterly magnificent coin of astonishing beauty and outstanding quality. It is very sharply struck except for just a little weakness on the hair curls around the face, the top of the cap, and on the eagle's left wing near the shield. All of the stars are very bold with each radial line clearly showing; all denticles are prominent and well defined except in the upper left quadrant of the obverse where they are moderately weak. The fields are deeply mirrorlike with almost all of the quality and fabric of a true Proof and, in fact, JJP purchased this coin as a Proof in 1947. The coin has the most superb toning one could possibly imagine with medium multicolored iridescent shades of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with no more than a few trivial hairlines and contact marks, all of which are effectively concealed by the magnificent toning. Near the date, especially the 2, there are some very heavy die scratches in the fields; lighter ones are evident at the 13th star. The overall appearance of this coin is simply stunning and it is far and away the finest known example of this extremely rare variety. Purchased by JJP from a Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) sale on 12/6/47 as Lot 180 for \$24. In that sale, the coin was catalogued as a Proof and JJP also considered it to be a legitimate Proof. I do not agree, but this is another one of those possibly controversial early coins where opinions may differ concerning its original minting status. To me, it is a prooflike business strike; to Abe Kosoff and JJP it was a Proof, and so prospective bidders are encouraged to examine the coin very closely and decide for themselves.

This variety was unknown to Browning, but it is listed in Walter Breen's 1992 update of the Browning text. At the time of that update, Breen noted that only two specimens had been identified, one in Fine, the other in Good. The reverse die used to strike this coin is unique to this variety. It is identifiable by a tiny die break running from the eagle's left wing to a denticle, and by a curving die scratch (not a die crack as Breen described) curving down to the right to a denticle from the tip of the large leaf immediately to the left of the lower berry. There is also evidence of die rust on the reverse near the upper serif of the E in AMERICA and between E and T in UNITED. This coin is one of the rarest and most beautiful items in JJP's entire collection.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE GEM PROOF 1822 QUARTER

Browning-1, Normal Die Reverse — One Of Only 3 Proofs Known





in March 1948, Lot 786, for \$42.50.

In Proof, the 1822 Quarter is exceedingly rare. Although some other references and cataloguers have indicated that as many as five or six specimens are known, it is my belief that only three examples with the normal die reverse are known, including this one. The additional 1822 Quarters referred to in the past as Proofs more than likely have been either prooflike mint state examples or legitimate Proofs with the 25/50 error reverse. Following is the list of the three Proof examples of the 1822 Quarter with normal reverse known to me. Of course, it is always possible that others exist, but I believe this list to be complete.

B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection



- Louis Eliasberg: 1384; John H. Clapp; probably from the John G. Mills Collection sale of April 27-29, 1904, per Q. David Bowers.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 786.
- 3. Newcomb I: 596; believed to be Thomas Cleneay: 1323.

The Jerome Kern sale specimen, Lot 1406, was not a Proof according to JJP who examined it closely. Even in his description of the coin, B. Max Mehl, who was always quick and eager to describe a coin as a Proof, waffled on declaring the Kern coin to be a true Proof. When JJP first showed me this coin many years ago, he said it was one of only two true Proofs of the 1822 Quarter with the normal reverse that he had ever seen, the other being the coin in Wayte Raymond's Newcomb sale, i.e. coin No. 3 above. Apparently, JJP had not seen the Eliasberg specimen, but he did comment that all the other so-called Proofs of this variety that he had seen were only prooflike business strikes and that the few other true Proofs of 1822 that he had seen all had the 25/50 error reverse, like the James A. Stack specimen I now own which JJP enjoyed looking at and discussing. If that is true, and I agree with him, the 1822 Quarter with normal reverse is much more rare in Proof than has been previously recognized and reported.

In addition to the three normal reverse Proofs listed above, there are just two Proofs known of the B-2 variety with the 25/50 denomination error on the reverse. They are as follows:

- 1. David W. Akers; Bowers & Merena 5/92: 1171; James A. Stack: 21; Virgil Brand.
- 2. John W. Garrett: 636; J. Colvin Randall (1885).

A few other examples of B-2 have been called "Proof" in the past including Eliasberg: 1385-Mougey: 687 (correctly attributed as a business strike by Q. David Bowers), Norweb: 1537, and R.L. Miles: 892-Davis-Graves: 331 (these are the same, not different specimens as listed in Breen.) However, in my opinion, they are all prooflike business strikes and not Proofs. This accounts for a total of five Proof 1822 Quarters, three with the normal reverse and two with the error reverse.

RARE 1822 ERROR REVERSE QUARTER





1279. **1822**, **25** Over **50** C., **B-2**. High Rarity-5. Fine to Very Fine. Cleaned, now a medium blue, russet and gold color with some violet highlights. The surfaces are slightly porous on both sides. This is a very rare variety that is seldom seen in any condition. Purchased as Lot 1687 from the Farouk sale in 1954 along with the 1823/2 in the next lot. The lot

realized 85 Egyptian Pounds or approximately \$245 U.S. With the 5% Government tax added, this brought the price to approximately \$257 for both coins. This coin had earlier been in the Michael F. Higgy Collection sale of 1943 as Lot 402.

VERY RARE 1823/2 QUARTER

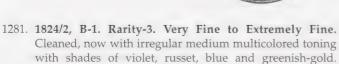




1280. 1823/2, B-1. Rarity-6. Good. Well worn with the rims wearing into the stars on the left side on the obverse and just into the tops of the letters in STATES OF AMERICA on the reverse. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time, now with irregular, light multicolored toning. There are a number of light scratches in the fields. This is one of the greatest and most famous silver rarities in U.S. numismatics with only two dozen or so examples known in all grades. This was pur-

chased from the Palace Collection sale of the King Farouk holdings, Lot 1687, along with the 1822 with error reverse in the preceding lot. The two coin lot realized approximately \$257, which JJP surely considered a very good buy since the two coins had realized a total of \$472.50 more than a decade earlier in the Michael F. Higgy Collection sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery in 1943.







Numerous light hairlines in the fields underneath the toning. Purchased from a Wayte Raymond sale, 3/1/48, Lot 420, for \$26.25.

VERY CHOICE 1825/3 QUARTER

Fully Prooflike or Possibly Proof





1282. 1825/3, B-2. Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-7 as Proof. Very Choice Uncirculated, Prooflike, or possibly **Proof.** Fully struck with highly mirrorlike fields, including the area within the shield on the reverse. However, the fields lack the depth and fabric that one would normally expect on a Proof of this period (cf. the 1822 in Lot 1278), and so it is my opinion that this is really a fully prooflike business strike as opposed to a true Proof. Others, however, may have a different opinion and, in fact, this specimen has perhaps the most famous "Proof" pedigree of any of the so-called Proofs of this date and variety. It traces its pedigree to B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee sale (featuring the Jerome Kern Collection) in 1950, Lot 1411, and earlier to the "World's Greatest Collection" sale where it sold as Lot 86. The quality of the coin, whatever its original minting format may have been, is excellent, and there are only a few light hairlines and minor contact marks present. The color is particularly beautiful since the coin has gorgeous sunset toning with reddish-gold predominating and shades of violet and blue as highlights. In the Jerome Kern sale, JJP paid \$34.50 for this coin.

With many early coins of the 1820's and 1830's, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to be completely certain about their original minting status, i.e. whether they were struck as Proofs or business strikes. Some coins, such as the 1822 Quarter in Lot 1278, will leave no question in anyone's mind as to their Proof status. Other pieces, such as the 1821 and this 1825, will probably elicit a divided response as to whether they are Proofs or business strikes, although I think that most people will agree with me that both coins are business strikes. Although Walter Breen and others have indicated that a number of Proofs of this date are known, I must say that I have never seen an indisputable Proof 1825 Quarter. This specimen, the most documented and well known of the 1825 "Proofs", is, to my eyes, clearly a business strike (remember, others might disagree), and several others I have seen called Proofs were of a similar nature. Does a real Proof of this issue exist? If so, where is it? One final note on this variety. It has long been referred to in the literature as "1825/3"; however, the nature of the under date is not really all that clear. There is obvious repunching on the 8 of the date as well as something under the 5, but whether or not that something is a 3 is another matter. As was pointed out in the Eliasberg catalogue, a position with which I agree, it is more likely that the under date is really a 4, and thus both Browning-2 and Browning-3 are more correctly referred to as "1825/4".

EXTREMELY RARE AND FAMOUS 1827/3 ORIGINAL QUARTER

One Of Only 9-10 Specimens Known





1283. 1827/3, B-1. Original. Low Rarity-7. Proof. Previously lacquered and subsequently cleaned leaving the coin with light to moderate hairlines throughout the fields which have very little of their original mirror surface. There is a small defect in the field by the denticles between the 7 in the date and the 13th star. Extremely well struck with all of the stars showing their full detail and all of the design elements on the bust of Liberty and the eagle very bold. The surfaces are mostly brilliant with just a hint of light multicolored iridescence. Purchased by JJP from the Farouk sale in 1954 as Lot 1688 for 625 Pounds, one of the highest prices realized by any lot in the sale. This price in Egyptian Pounds translates to \$1800 U.S., to which was added a 5% Government tax for a total purchase price of \$1890. This was by far the highest price that JJP had ever paid for any United States coin up to that point in his collecting career. (At the Farouk sale, however, JJP arranged for A.H. Baldwin & Son of London, England, to purchase on his behalf the 1862 British Columbia Twenty Dollar gold piece, a coin for which he paid, including commissions, \$4500 U.S., by far the most that JJP ever paid for any coin in his collection with out-of-pocket funds.)

The 1827 Quarter is one of the rarest and most famous silver issues in all of U.S. numismatics. The reported mintage for the year was 4,000 pieces, but this undoubtedly consisted entirely of coins dated 1825. All of the known examples of this date are Proofs with the exception of the circulated Eliasberg specimen which more than likely was also struck as a Proof and then subsequently spent. Following is a list of the known specimens.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here. Farouk: 1688; Menjou: 696; Charles M. Williams. Allegedly one of the four specimens obtained by Joseph J. Mickley directly from the Mint in 1827.
- 3. John W. Garrett: 641; W. Elliott Woodward Sale (1884): 244. This is the finest of the specimens that I have seen. Reputedly, it is another one of the four coins Joseph J. Mickley acquired directly from the Mint in 1827.
- 4. Auction '89: 570; B&M 6/84: 3975; B&M 11/83: 2981; Auction '80: 1177; Stack's 1976 ANA sale: 962; Jerome Kern: 1412; Waldo C. Newcomer; Thomas Cleneay: 1339.
- 5. B&M 5/93: 224; Norweb: 1542; Joseph Mickley 10/67: 1706. Another of the four coins allegedly purchased by Joseph J. Mickley directly from the Mint in 1827.
- 6. Superior 5/94: 576; Superior 1/94: 1248; B&M 9/84: 2653; Auction '79: 581; Kagin's 1977 ANA sale: 1175; Philip Speir 3/74: 20; R.L. Miles, Jr.: 898; Guggenheimer: 539; Will W. Neil: 897; "WGC": 89; F.C.C. Boyd.
- 7. Charlton E. Meyer, Jr.; Auction '90: 1074; Robison: 1284; Reed Hawn: 275; Quality Sales 9/73: 670; Yale University; H.O. Granberg.
- 8. B&M 5/92:1172; Dan Drykerman; Paramount International Coin Corp.; James A. Stack: 29; B.G. Johnson; Col. E.H.R. Green; Lorin G. Parmelee: 975. The fourth example allegedly obtained directly from the U.S. Mint in 1827 by Joseph J. Mickley.
- Louis Eliasberg: 1391, there attributed as a possible business strike, but more likely a circulated Proof; John H. Clapp; Nicholas Petry: 484. Received in change from a railway ticket clerk in Hudson, Michigan, in 1893.

It is believed that the preceding nine specimens constitute the entire known universe of 1827 Original Quarter Dollars. However, there have been other appearances at auction as well as private offerings of 1827 Quarters that cannot be matched with these nine specimens, and so it is always possible that one or more additional examples also exist.

EXTREMELY RARE AND VERY CHOICE PROOF 1828 QUARTER

Only 8-10 Proofs Known



1284. 1828, B-4. Rarity-3 as variety, Low Rarity-7 as Proof. Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. A beautiful and very obvious Proof with superb medium multicolored toning in shades of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse is especially beautiful and is of superb quality. The obverse, however, has just a few very trivial hairlines as well as several microscopic marks, all of which are largely obscured by the lovely toning. The strike is very sharp, especially on the reverse; the obverse is also quite bold and all of the stars have their full radial lines. There is a trace of die rust or other anomaly near the top of the 1 in the date as well as just a trace in the upper loop of the 8 and the curve of the 2. The denticles on the reverse are broad, even and well defined; however, the denticles on the obverse, especially at the left and top, are not quite as distinct. As stated, this coin is very obviously a Proof and it looks decidedly different from the prooflike business strikes of this variety that are often erroneously offered as Proofs, and it is also quite different in appearance from the highly

prooflike 1821 and 1825/3 offered here in the Pittman Collection. Close examination of this coin and the 1822 makes it clear that the U.S. Mint definitely knew how to make real Proofs in the 1820's, and comparing these two obvious Proofs to the 1821 and 1825/3 will show why I consider the 1821 and 1825/3 to be highly prooflike business strikes rather than true Proofs. This coin was purchased on 12/6/47 from a Numismatic Gallery auction as Lot 186 for \$22.

The 1828 is one of the few issues of this type that does appear in Proof from time to time. In fact, the 1821, 1827 and 1828 are really the only three issues of this type of which more than a very few Proofs exist. However, even this issue and the 1821 are much more rare than often stated, since a number of prooflike business strikes exist of each date and, in the past, they have been incorrectly offered as Proofs, thereby inflating the apparent Proof population. In my opinion, approximately 8-10 Proofs of the 1828 are known with a similar number known of the 1821 and 1827. Of the 1822 year, five or six specimens are known counting both the normal reverse and the error reverse varieties. The other issues of which there are known Proofs are limited to only one to three pieces, some one-sided in nature.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1831 QUARTER





1285. 1831, Small Date, Small Letters, B-2. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. Short, wide arrowheads. Die State 3. Sharply struck and fully prooflike with light golden toning turning to darker reddish-gold and violet at the borders. The surfaces have a few very light hairlines, but there are no contact marks to speak of and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. Hairline die breaks are present in the reverse legend and through the arrowheads. Purchased as a Proof from Lester Merkin at the 1960 FUN convention for \$45.

According to Walter Breen's Proof Encyclopedia, and his update of the Browning Quarter reference, Proofs are known of this variety. I disagree. I have seen a number of the alleged Proofs, and, in my opinion, not one of them is a true Proof. Furthermore, I feel that all legitimate Proofs of this date are the B-5 variety (see next lot). Many examples of this variety are prooflike, a number of them very much so, and this has naturally led to some specimens being called Proofs when they are really just business strikes. The same situation, of course, has occurred with many other early U.S. coins; actually, most of these early issues are far more rare in Proof than is generally realized.

John Jay Pittman

John Jay Pittman was born February 18, 1913, in Virginia to North Carolina parents. He lived his early years in North Carolina and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1936, he moved to Rochester, New York, to work for Kodak, the company in whose employ he remained until his retirement in 1971.

He was a long-time Governor of the American Numismatic Association and served as its President. He also served as President of the Canadian Numismatic Association and honorary President of the Mexican Numismatic Society. JJP was a member of countless coin clubs and associations and was the greatest numismatic goodwill ambassador the hobby has ever known. He served on the U.S. Assay Commission in 1947, and in 1980, he was given the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, the ANA's highest honor. He was also chosen for the ANA's Hall of Fame. JJP was a lecturer and exhibitor for more than half a century, sharing his knowledge and passion for coins with several generations of collectors. John Jay Pittman passed away on February 17, 1996.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1831 QUARTER

Only 7-8 Proofs Known





1286. 1831, Large Date, Large Letters, B-5. Low Rarity-3 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Choice Proof. Long, narrow arrowheads. Deep mirror fields and an absolutely full strike. Mostly brilliant, but with beautiful light to medium russet toning near the borders. In the date, large tall 1's are punched over small short 1's. There are a few very light hairlines and contact marks in the fields, but none is really serious. The reverse is a considerably higher grade than the obverse and is very close to Gem quality. This piece is an unquestionable Proof, something that cannot be said for many of the so-called "Proofs" of this date and type. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery, 7/15/47, for \$30.

Although others feel differently, it is my opinion that the only true Proofs of this date are this B-5 variety. Highly prooflike examples exist of other varieties, mostly B-2, and some of these pieces have incorrectly been called Proofs in the past, but they are very different

in appearance from the specimens of this variety which have unquestioned Proof status. There are also some highly prooflike examples of this variety that have been called Proofs in the past which also do not match up to the "fabric" of the 7-8 true Proofs of the variety. Following is a list of the Proof 1831 Quarters known to me. Of course, it is always possible that one or more others exist that are not listed here.

- 1. **John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;** Numismatic Gallery.
- 2. David W. Akers; Auction '79: 154.
- 3. Davis-Graves: 338.
- 4. 1977 ANA: 2185; John McNail; Jerome Kern: 1416; "WGC": 105; F.C.C. Boyd.
- 5. Louis Eliasberg: 1399; John H. Clapp.
- 6. Norweb: 1548; Richard Picker.
- 7. T. James Clark: 1577; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 872; Peter Mougey: 694.

1287. 1831, Large Date, Large Letters, B-5. Low Rarity-3. Uncirculated in terms of actual wear, but the coin has been repaired in the area above the cap by the 7th star reducing its value to that of a Very Fine or Extremely Fine coin. Long, narrow arrowheads. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as several noticeable marks by the 1st star and on the jaw. The surfaces of the coin are partially

prooflike and there is attractive multicolored toning near the borders. It is also apparent that there has been some repair work done in the milling just above the aforementioned place in the field that has been worked on (above the cap). Purchased by JJP as Lot 117 from French's MANA sale, 10/21/61, for \$42.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1832 QUARTER



1288. 1832, B-2. High Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. Small arrowheads. Very sharply struck with superb medium multicolored toning, a beautiful blend of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The obverse is especially attractive and is somewhat more lightly toned than the reverse. The surfaces of the coin are very clean, although there is one tiny nick on Liberty's throat and a few small hairline scratches between the top of the eagle's left wing and the beak. As a date, the 1832 is very scarce, and mint state specimens, particularly high grade ones like this, are particularly difficult to locate. This coin was purchased as a Proof by JJP from Stack's sale of the Pelletreau Collection in March 1959, Lot 679.

Despite the fact that this coin has considerable prooflike fields, I do not consider it to be a true Proof. In fact, I have never seen a true Proof of this date and seriously doubt if such a thing exists. Of the three Proofs listed in Breen's 1992 update of the Browning work on Early U.S. Quarters, two of the coins, the Eliasberg and the Landau specimens (see the next lot), are definitely not Proofs. (I have not seen the Eric Newman specimen so I cannot make an informed comment about the Proof status of that particular piece.) However, it is interesting to



note that in the 1867 Joseph Mickley sale, Lot 1711 contained a partial 1832 Proof Set, probably assembled, consisting of the four silver denominations. It was noted in the catalogue that all were brilliant Proofs, "Except the quarter which is not quite up to standard". It is my guess that it was "not up to standard" because it was not really a Proof. Since Mickley obtained Proofs from the Mint in the year of issue beginning in 1827, it is possible that he did not obtain a Quarter in 1832 for the simple reason that they did not mint any.

The reverse legend has large letters punched over small letters! This fact has not been mentioned in Browning or any of the references on early Quarters, including auction catalogues, that I have examined. However, the repunching of the letters is really quite obvious, especially at the M of AMERICA and also at the second A of AMERICA, the second S of STATES, and all of the T's. This specimen and the next two lots, which are also the B-2 variety, all have exactly the same reverse so this repunching of large letters over small letters is undoubtedly characteristic of the B-2 variety. The closest anyone has come to mentioning this characteristic was in the Eliasberg catalogue where the cataloguer noted, "The reverse legend shows very slight doubling". However, there was no doubling in the legend, but rather the repunching of the large letters over small letters.



1289. 1832, B-2. High Rarity-1. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Small arrowheads. Fully prooflike, in fact, with sufficient mirror fields that this coin was catalogued as a Proof by Walter Breen in the New Netherlands 52nd Sale as Lot 507. It is also one of the three specimens listed in his update of the Browning book and in his Proof Encyclopedia. This piece is not quite as high quality as the preceding lot, but it is even more prooflike. Nevertheless, I still do not consider it to be a true Proof, although others may do so, and so prospective bidders should examine the coin closely and decide for themselves. The coin is very sharply struck with a rim-to-rim mirror surface, especially on the obverse, and beautiful medium multicolored toning, a mix of reddish-gold in the centers, and blue and



greenish-gold with a dash of violet at the borders. There are some light hairlines and handling marks in the fields, but nothing serious, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. As mentioned in the commentary on the preceding lot, this variety actually has large letters in the reverse legend punched over small letters, something that has not been noticed before or at least not mentioned in auction catalogues or reference works on this series. Purchased by JJP on 12/13/58 from the New Netherlands 52nd (Landau) sale, Lot 507, for \$36.

Quarters in 1831 were minted with both Large Letters and Small Letters reverses. Undoubtedly, when minting this particular 1832 issue, one of the unused Small Letters reverse dies from 1831 was selected and the legend repunched with the new large letters.





1290. **1832**, **B-2**. **High Rarity-1**. **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Small arrowheads. More weakly struck than either of the preceding two specimens, especially on the curls around the face and at the denticles. For some, this may lend some credibility to the claims of Proof status for the preceding two lots, but I still do not feel that either of the coins in Lots 1288 and 1289 were struck as Proofs. This piece is frosty and has beautiful, cool mottled shades

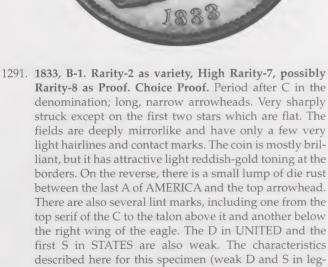
of greenish-gold, russet and blue toning. The fields are very clean with only a few marks and hairlines. However, there is a fine pin scratch that runs from the forelock along the profile, down past the chin to the throat. This is barely noticeable except on very close inspection. There is also a similar pin scratch on the lower right obverse along the hair curls that mimics the one along the profile. Clearly these were done intentionally for some unknown reason. This piece, like the preceding two examples of this variety, has large letters punched over small letters in the reverse legend, although they are less clear and distinct than they were on the other two. This specimen was purchased from Stack's sale of the J.H. South Collection, 5/25/51, Lot 480, for \$15.

Perhaps because of the considerable rarity of this variety in high grade, and the fact that on more typical business strikes like this one the repunching is not particularly obvious, this is the reason why this repunching, which is certainly a notable and important characteristic, has escaped previous notice.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1833 QUARTER

One Of Only 3-4 Specimens Known





end, die rust between A and the arrowhead and flat stars on the left) are common to all of the known Proofs of this



variety. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's famous Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale, 3/23/48, Lot 894, for \$32.50.

The 1833 Quarter is an extreme rarity in Proof with only three or four specimens known. Although several examples of the B-2 variety have also been called Proofs in the past, in my opinion, this is incorrect, and all of the few Proofs that exist are this B-1 variety. However, fully prooflike examples exist of both the B-1 and B-2 varieties and, unfortunately, some such specimens have been incorrectly labeled as Proofs when they were actually just prooflike business strikes. Following is the list of the known Proof 1833 Quarters.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 894.
- 2. Louis Eliasberg: 1403; John H. Clapp; probably Parmelee: 1025.
- 3. Auction '86 (Superior): 1091.
- 4. Bowers & Ruddy Rare Coin List No. 14, April 1972; possibly the same as the specimen listed as No. 3 above.

VERY RARE B-5 VARIETY 1834 QUARTER





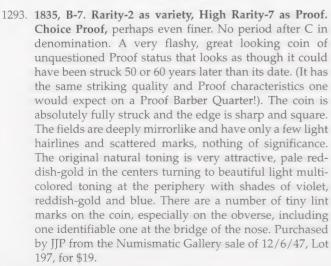
1292. **1834**, **B-5**. **High Rarity-6**. **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, virtually mint state. Sharply struck from clashed dies, the clashing showing just below Liberty's chin and near the throat as well as, most noticeably, below her ear. The top of the eagle's right wing is flat and stars 11-13 are weak, but all other design details are very sharp. Considerable mint luster remains under the attractive toning which is light reddish-gold in the centers turning to deeper shades of blue and violet at the periphery. There are some minor marks in the fields and one light hairline scratch near the

4th star extending toward the bust. Purchased by JJP as a Proof for \$12.50, seller and date of purchase unknown.

This is a very rare variety of the date, by far the rarest of the five varieties of the year. This variety is characterized by having the obverse of B-3 and B-4, and the reverse of B-2. At the time of the publication of Breen's update of the Browning reference on Early U.S. Quarters in 1992, he was able to locate only four 1834 B-5 specimens, just one of which was superior in quality to this one. This is a very rare and important coin for the serious Bust Quarter specialist.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1835 QUARTER







Like all Proofs of the Small Capped Bust type, this Proof 1835 Quarter is a great rarity, one of no more than 4 or 5 Proofs known. There are some experts, including the late Walter Breen, who have stated that the B-1 variety of this date also exists in Proof (cf. Eliasberg: 1408), but I disagree and feel that the only true Proofs of 1835 are this variety. Following is a list of the only four Proof 1835 Quarters known to me.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery 12/47: 197.
- 2. Louis Eliasberg: 1410; John H. Clapp.
- 3. Auction '82: 717; Lester Merkin 2/71: 574.
- 4. John Work Garrett: 649; W. Foster Ely.

In addition to these four specimens, Proof 1835 Quarters appeared in the Mickley (1867), Parmelee (1890), Winsor (1895), and Mougey (1910) sales. It is unlikely that all of these appearances represent different specimens from the ones listed above, but it is possible that one or more are not duplications and therefore, in addition to the four listed, another example or two may exist.

UNDERRATED 1836 QUARTER IN CHOICE MINT STATE





1294. **1836, B-3. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated.** Generally well struck on the bust of Liberty and the eagle, but the hair

curls just above Liberty's eyebrow, and all of the stars on the obverse, are flat with only two or three of them showing any radial lines at all. The surfaces are partially prooflike and have excellent luster under beautiful multicolored iridescent toning which is largely reddish-gold and blue green in color. There is one tiny nick on Liberty's cheekbone and another in the field midway between Liberty's mouth and the 4th star. A small die break connects the tip of the bust and the first five stars on the left; another small hairline die break connects the drapery to the tops of the four numerals in the date. Although common as a variety, this is actually a very scarce date in Choice Uncirculated or finer condition. In fact, the 1836 is the scarcest date of the entire type from 1831-1838 and is decidedly underrated in high grade. Purchased by JJP from Stack's sale of the J.H. South Collection, 5/25/51, Lot 490, for \$8.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE GEM PROOF 1837 QUARTER





1295. 1837, B-2. Rarity-2 as variety, Rarity-8 or Unique as Proof. Gem Proof. This is an incredible coin of absolutely astonishing beauty and quality; I feel that it is one of the greatest coins in the entire Pittman collection. It is very sharply struck with a square edge and deep mirror fields that have a few light striations present. The toning is just sensational, as magnificent as one could ever ask for, a blend of medium reddish-gold, violet and blue, the cooler, deeper shades at the borders. The fields of the coin, as well as the devices, are literally pristine with no hairlines, scratches, marks or impairments of any kind. There is evidence of die clashing at Liberty's chin and throat, at the hair ribbon behind her head, and by the eagle at the top of the left wing and below the right wing. It is probable that this is what I called in the first Pittman sale an accidental or unintentional Proof where

the dies initially clashed and then were highly polished to remove the clash marks. This polishing has given the coin its deeply mirrorlike fields. Prooflike business strikes of this variety are known, and there are some who may feel that this coin is also just a prooflike business strike. However, the prooflike examples of this date that I have seen are of a significantly different nature and fabric than this particular specimen and, therefore, although probably not struck intentionally as a Proof, this coin merits the Proof designation in much the same fashion as the 1851 Half Dime and the 1853 With Arrows Dime in the first Pittman sale. JJP purchased this coin from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 12/6/47, Lot 198, for \$24. It was formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green collection and almost certainly is the piece that appeared in the Thomas Cleneay sale of 1890 as Lot 1352.

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1295 continued

In Walter Breen's update of Browning's reference work on Early U.S. Quarters in 1992, he lists two known Proofs of this variety, but both listings refer to a single coin, the same coin offered here. He also lists several examples of the B-5 variety as Proofs, but it is unlikely that any of them are true Proofs. Certainly the Eliasberg specimen, Lot 1417, was not a Proof (nor was it catalogued as such by Q. David Bowers and Mark Borckardt). One 1837 Quarter has been "certified" as Proof-65 by NGC, but I have not seen the coin and, therefore, am unable to give an informed opinion of its Proof status. This remarkable coin, therefore, may be unique or, at the very least, one of only two known Proofs of this date, although, let me stress again that I consider this coin to be an accidental or unintentional Proof struck from highly repolished dies that had previously clashed. On the obverse, there is a tiny lint mark behind the next to lowest curl, and this perhaps adds to the coin's credibility as a Proof. As a minimum, it indicates that the dies were polished with a cloth prior to striking.

The reverse of this coin is extremely interesting. Starting on the rim just above TE of STATES and continuing clockwise all the way around to the area between the two bottom leaf pairs, the denticles extend out over the broad rim almost as though they are small talons gripping the edge. These are extensions of the denticles and they vary somewhat in intensity, the most prominent near RICA and the arrowheads, and directly below the denomination. These extensions of the denticles are very obvious and yet have never been described in any auction catalogues or in any of the literature on Bust Quarters, including the Browning update. They appear on most, but not all, examples of this variety and they also appear on the 1838 Proof that follows in the next lot, which, of course, was struck using the same reverse die as this B-2 variety of 1837. It seems odd to me that these extensions have not been described before because they are very prominent and noticeable to the naked eye as well as most unusual.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1838 QUARTER



1296. 1838, B-1. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. Despite a slight weakness on several stars and on the curls just above Liberty's eyebrow, this coin is very well struck with a sharp square edge and a partial wire rim. The deep mirror fields have only a few faint hairlines and no marks of significance, just one tiny one between the tip of the bust and the 1st star. The original, natural toning is a superb combination of russet, violet, blue and greenishgold. The edge of this coin is very interesting, significantly different than the edge of the 1837 in the previous lot. The milling on this coin is much coarser with each segment wider and more separation between segments. Also, between the segments, the surface is very brilliant and as one rotates the coin in one's hand with the edge up, there is a definite sparkle to it. The milling on the 1837 is much finer and more closely spaced. This piece has the same reverse as the 1837 Proof with the same denticle



extensions out over the rim that make it appear as though little talons are gripping it. There are also a considerable number of raised die scratches near the bottom of the reverse around the denomination. Purchased by JJP from a Stack's sale, 3/26/49, Lot 655, for \$47. Earlier the coin was from the New York Stamp & Coin Co. at \$50.

The only other Proof 1838 Quarter that I have ever seen was the Norweb specimen sold in 1988. That piece was somewhat finer quality than this one, and also more brilliant (i.e. less toned) and more sharply struck, but the two coins have exactly the same fabric and are the only two such examples with which I am familiar. I have not seen the other specimen mentioned as a Proof in the Breen update to the Browning work, but from the description in the New Netherlands 53rd catalogue where the coin appeared as Lot 730, it does not sound as if the coin was a legitimate Proof. The pedigrees of the two known specimens are as follows.

- 1. Norweb: 1561; New Netherlands Coin Co. (1954).
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Stack's 3/49: 655.

1297. 1838, Liberty Seated, No Drapery. Uncirculated. Very sharply struck except for the usually seen weakness at the borders. Attractive medium multicolored toning with shades of violet, reddish-gold, greenish-gold and blue.

There are some light hairlines and a few minor marks under the toning as well as a small nick on Liberty's left breast and another on the eagle's beak. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone on 11/30/43 for \$4.75.

UNIQUE PROOF 1839 LIBERTY SEATED QUARTER





1298. 1839, No Drapery. Very Choice Proof. Curved date slanting down from left to right and closed claws on the eagle. Breen 3937, "Type 2"; Briggs-2B. This is the only known Proof 1839 Quarter and it was previously Lot 147 in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale of 1945. It has very deep, reflective mirror fields and is an unequivocal Proof despite the fact that it displays some areas of rather soft striking on several stars, Liberty's breast, thigh and hair, and on the eagle's left leg and the arrow feathers. The toning is absolutely superb, mostly midnight blue with traces of russet and gold. The fields have only a few trivial hairlines and no marks, and the devices are also very clean. There are considerable signs of die polishing throughout the fields, especially near the border above Liberty's head, and at the denticles below the date where there are very heavy horizontal die polishing lines or die file marks. There appears to be very light repunching on the date, most visible at the 8 and the 3; also, the ball of the 9 connects to the loop with

a small "bridge". There is a shallow depression "as made" on the obverse edge, below the 13th star just opposite Liberty's foot. Purchased by JJP on 7/1/47 from Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) for \$30. Earlier, it was in the sale of the "World's Greatest Collection" of F.C.C. Boyd, Lot 147.

This is the only known 1839 Liberty Seated Quarter in Proof, in fact, the only one that has ever been reliably reported or even rumored. JJP held this coin in especially high regard and considered it one of the highlights of his collection. When he first showed this piece to me many years ago, as he took it out of his pocket and carefully unwrapped it, first from the lead foil and then from the inner tarnish proof tissue, he smiled his famous ear-to-ear grin and said, "I have something here I'm sure you've never seen before", and, of course, he was absolutely right. This is truly a coin of the ultimate rarity, and fortunately it is also of very high quality with excellent color and eye appeal. Without question, it is one of the most important coins in the entire Pittman Collection, a coin that could not be duplicated for any amount of money.

UNCIRCULATED 1840-O NO DRAPERY QUARTER





1299. **1840-O**, **No Drapery. Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. This specimen is quite well struck, but with just a trace of weakness on the head and bust. The stars are

very sharp and the 0 in the date is triple punched. The mintmark is well to the right, at the far right side of the R in DOLLAR. This is Briggs variety 2-B. Breen notes that this variety is rare, but Briggs states that it is the same rarity as the mintmark left variety. This is an original coin with just a few marks, including several noticeable ones in the field below OF in the legend. The surfaces of the coin have very attractive mottled russet, gold, and violet toning. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 671, for \$10.25.

This is obviously not one of the so-called "New Orleans Hoard" coins which were discovered on October 29, 1982, since it has been in the Pittman Collection since 1953. Most of the coins in the hoard were dull and corroded, in stark contrast to the attractive original appearance of this piece. Mint state examples as nice as the Pittman specimen are very rare and, above this grade level, are extremely rare.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1840 QUARTER

One Of Only Three Proofs Known





1300. 1840, With Drapery. Choice Proof, possibly even finer. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a square edge. Mottled multicolored toning, a blend of violet, russet and blue. There are many lint marks and planchet imperfections in the right obverse field; others appear in the left obverse field by stars 3, 4 and 5. There is a triangle shaped imperfection on the rim, "as made", by the 3rd star. A fine die break runs from the top of the eagle's head to the 2nd T in STATES and the reverse also has some tiny planchet chips above the eagle's head and below the left wing. With the exception of the aforementioned lint marks and tiny planchet chips, which are "as made", the fields of the coin are quite clean with just a few light hairlines in addition to a few trivial marks. Purchased by JJP from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale (B. Max Mehl, 3/23/48), Lot 984, for \$22.

The 1840 With Drapery Quarter is a major rarity in Proof, in fact, one of the rarest Proof coins of the Liberty Seated type. At present, only three specimens can be accounted for with this example and the recently sold Eliasberg coin the only two in private hands. Proof 1840 Quarters were struck only for inclusion in the ten or fewer Proof sets of the year. In addition to these ten complete copper-silver Proof sets, additional quantities were made of the Half Cent, Large Cent and Silver Dollar denominations, but it does not appear that any additional Proof Quarters were struck since there was really no reason or demand to do so. Almost without exception, the Proof Quarters of this decade are the rarest denomination of each year followed by the Half Dollars and then the Dimes. Following is a list of the known Proof 1840 With Drapery Quarters.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 984.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1422; John H. Clapp.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED 1840-O WITH DRAPERY QUARTER



1301. **1840-O, With Drapery. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Small O mintmark. Sharply struck with full stars and head. Superb medium toning with reddish-gold in the centers turning to blue and violet at the borders. Very good luster under the toning. A few light contact marks and hairlines are present in the fields along with one scratch in the right obverse field. This is a rare issue in this condition, but it is not as rare as the No Drapery issue. Purchased by JJP from James Kelly's Central States auction in 1949, Lot 1156, for \$5.25.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1841 QUARTER

The Finest Of Only 3 Proofs Known





1302. **1841, Very Choice Proof.** Fully struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and superb medium violet, blue and gold toning. There are a few very light contact marks hidden under the toning in the right obverse field. The rest of the surfaces of the coin are very clean and, in particular, the reverse is fully Gem quality. This is the finest of just three Proofs known, the other two grading only Proof-58 and Proof-60 respectively; in other words, both are significantly impaired. Obtained by JJP from the New Netherlands 52nd sale, April 1960, Lot 1113, for \$320. Earlier, the coin had appeared in the 1959 ANA sale as Lot 2480 and, earlier still, in a Sam Kabealo sale in 1941.

Like all of the Proof Liberty Seated Quarters of the 1840's, except perhaps the 1846, the 1841 is exceedingly rare, equal in rarity to the 1840 offered in Lot 1300, and also just as rare as the 1844 which was sold in Part I of the Pittman Collection sale as part of a complete 1844 Proof set. The Proof coins of 1841, with the exception of the Half Cent, Cent and possibly the Silver Dollar, were struck only for inclusion in the Proof sets of that year. In my opinion, ten or fewer sets were minted, and relatively few of the silver coins have survived. The Dime of that year is as rare as, if not more rare than this Quarter, and the Half Dime, Half Dollar and Silver Dollar are also of the greatest rarity with just five to six examples of each denomination known. This Proof 1841 Quarter, especially given its considerable superiority in terms of condition to the only other two Proofs known, is one of the rarest and most important of the many Proof Liberty Seated coins in the John Jay Pittman Collection.

- 1303. **1841, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and very lustrous with medium reddish-gold toning. There are some light marks and hairlines in the fields. Purchased as Uncirculated for \$14 from the Numismatic Gallery sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, Lot 404. This is a moderately scarce date in this high grade.
- 1304. **1841-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Fairly well struck with medium blue, greenish-gold, violet and reddish-gold toning. Not a lot of luster, possibly cleaned long ago. Several minor scratches on the reverse by the eagle's beak and by the I of UNITED. The first 1 in the date is repunched. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 674, for \$4.25.

RARE AND VERY CHOICE 1842 LARGE DATE QUARTER

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen





1305. 1842, Large Date. Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem category and likely to be so graded by most viewers. Briggs variety 2-B. Very sharply struck on the central design devices, but a few of the stars are somewhat flat and there is also a lack of definition on most of the denticles. The fields are deeply prooflike, even more so than on most specimens of this issue (which always comes prooflike), and the surfaces are very clean with only a few insignificant hairlines and marks. There is also a tiny planchet flaw across the 7th star to a denticle nearby. The toning and luster on this piece are fabulous, the colors a lovely blend of violet, russet, blue and greenish-gold. This is an extremely rare issue in Uncirculated condition and, in his excellent reference work on the subject, Larry Briggs assigns the 1842 Large Date Quarter a rarity rating of R-7. This is by far the finest of the three mint state examples of this issue in the Pittman Collection and is also the finest I have ever seen, possibly the finest in existence. Purchased by JJP as a Proof from F.K. Saab on 1/14/55 for \$15.

In Breen's various reference works, and in the Briggs Liberty Seated Quarter book, it is stated that three Proofs of this issue have been reported. One of those "reported" can be traced to the Pittman Collection, but none of the three Pittman coins is a Proof and, in my opinion, there is no such thing as a Proof 1842 Large Date Quarter. All of the Proof Quarters of 1842 were minted only for inclusion in the Proof sets of that year. They were minted early in the year and all of them are of the Small Date variety which is a Proof-only variety. The erroneous claims that several 1842 Large Date specimens are Proofs have been founded on the fact that prooflike fields are present on all mint state specimens. Although JJP at one time considered all three of his specimens Proofs, he had long since come to the realization that they were not and also believed, as I do, that there is no such thing as a Proof 1842 Large Date Quarter. The Jerome Kern: 1411, "WGC": 151 example, another of the alleged Proofs, was not purchased by JJP because it was low quality and did not possess even as many Proof characteristics as the non-Proof pieces offered here.

ANOTHER MINT STATE 1842 LARGE DATE QUARTER





1306. **1842, Large Date. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Struck from the same dies as the preceding lot; this coin is the Briggs 2-B variety. Deep multicolored toning with the same colors as the coin in Lot 1305, but not as pretty and iridescent. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as a few extremely minor marks. Boldly struck with more sharply defined denticles than the coin in Lot 1305. This is a rare issue in high circulated grades and Uncirculated pieces are certainly

deserving of Briggs' R-7 rarity rating. Purchased by JJP from French's of Troy, New York, as a Proof, on 2/13/59 for \$42.50. JJP obviously subsequently had second thoughts about the Proof nature of this coin, and wrote only on his coin envelope, "Claimed Proof", because, over the years he had formed the opinion that Proof 1842 Large Date Quarters do not exist and that all Proof Quarters of this year are the Small Date variety, an opinion with which I agree.

A THIRD UNCIRCULATED 1842 LARGE DATE QUARTER





1307. **1842**, Large Date. Uncirculated. Struck from different dies than the preceding; this is Larry Briggs' 1-A variety. Very sharply struck with a full head, full stars and well defined denticles. The fields are partially prooflike, but not the deep mirrors of the preceding two examples. The surfaces are highly lustrous and are covered with beautiful, rather uniform, light reddish-gold toning. There

are some light marks and hairlines in the fields as well as numerous die striations. Purchased as a Proof from B. Max Mehl's famous Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale, 3/48, Lot 1005, for \$26. As noted in the commentary on the preceding two lots, neither this specimen nor any of the other 1842 Large Date Quarters are true Proofs; only the Small Date Quarters of the year were struck in Proof.

EXTREMELY RARE 1842-O LARGE DATE QUARTER

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen





1308. 1842-O, Large Date. Gem Uncirculated. Briggs 3-C variety, distinguished by a tiny die chip between IC in AMERICA. This is a remarkable coin that will delight and amaze the Liberty Seated specialist. The coin is very sharply struck with deep mirrorlike fields and superb medium multicolored toning that blends violet, blue, russet, reddish-gold and other iridescent shades. There are only a few trivial hairlines that are almost entirely obscured by the magnificent toning and the coin is literally free of marks of any kind. The eye appeal of this coin is consistent with its high technical quality and the overall appearance of this specimen is something to behold. It is always difficult to say with complete assurance that a certain specimen of a particular issue is the finest known, but in the case of this remarkable coin I do not think it is going too far out on a limb to call it just that. I personally have not seen or heard of another that is even close. Purchased by JJP

from Numismatic Gallery's Walrath Collection sale, 5/21/48, Lot 473, for \$8.50.

The mintage of the 1842-O Quarter (including both the Small Date and Large Date varieties) was not particularly low, 769,000 pieces. Most of that mintage undoubtedly consisted of Large Date coins so one would not naturally expect this to be a rare issue. However, it is very scarce even in high circulated grades, and at the mint state level, it is an extreme rarity. Briggs, in his excellent and thorough reference work on Liberty Seated Quarters, notes as much by assigning the 1842-O Large Date a rarity rating of R-7 in mint state and commenting that the issue is, "Virtually unknown in Unc." Of course, the R-7 rating applies to the totality of mint state specimens, so as one moves up the quality scale, the rarity increases greatly. This means that in Choice Uncirculated or higher grade, the 1842-O Large Date is more deserving of a High R-7 or even R-8 rating, and at the Gem level, this particular specimen may well be unique. It is the greatest and most important of all of JJP's business strike Liberty Seated Quarters.

NEARLY FLAWLESS GEM PROOF 1843 QUARTER

One Of Only 4-5 Proofs Known





1309. 1843, Gem Proof. A superb specimen in all respects, and undoubtedly the finest known Proof of this date as well as one of the highest quality Proof Liberty Seated Quarters of this era. It is as fully struck as a Quarter of this type could possibly be with all of the design details bold and distinct including the head of Liberty, all of the stars, all of the feathers on the eagle, and the arrow feathers. The surfaces of the coin are nearly perfect with only a couple of tiny marks in the field below the 43 of the date keeping it from absolute perfection. The fields have numerous planchet lines, die scratches and striations, all, of course, "as made". The color is simply unbelievable, a medium to deep blend of blue, violet and gold. The fields are deeply mirrorlike, including the area within the eagle's shield, and there is a partial wire rim on the obverse. Purchased by JJP for \$40 from Numismatic Gallery on 2/10/47, approximately 6 months after it "sold" as Lot 442 in Numismatic Gallery's 1946 ANA sale for \$25 on an estimate of \$40. (Obviously, Abe Kosoff stuck to his estimate when he sold the coin privately to JJP.)

Walter Breen and others have estimated that as many as eight Proof 1843 Quarters exist, noting that some are impaired. I almost always have some reservations about coins of this era and earlier that are called "Proofs" and then are additionally described as "impaired", "cleaned", "poorly made" etc. since virtually all specimens that I have seen so described have turned out to be business strikes. Therefore, at the present time, I am certain of the existence of only four Proof 1843 Quarters as follows, although one or more additional examples may exist that I am not aware of.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery's 1946 ANA sale: 442; Adolph Friedman; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 3. Texas dealer; John Jay Pittman, the specimen sold in Part I of the Pittman sale in October 1997; Joseph F. Sawicki. Part of a complete original cased set.
- 4. Amon Carter, Jr.: 630; Will W. Neil: 2292; Fernand David. Part of a complete original cased set.

In addition to the above four coins, the Floyd Starr Collection contained a specimen that was catalogued as a Choice Brilliant Proof. I attended the Starr sale and examined the coin, but I did not think that it was a Proof. However, apparently some others did, although the Starr coin looks nothing like any of the four specimens listed above. Among other things it is much more weakly struck, particularly on the left stars, and does not have the deep mirror fields of the others. However, some felt that it is a Proof and, if it is, it would be a fifth known specimen.

VERY RARE CHOICE MINT STATE 1843-O QUARTER

One Of The Finest Known Examples





1310. **1843-O, Small O. Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck on Miss Liberty and the eagle; all of the stars are bold and show all of their radial lines, but the coin is weak in places at the denticles. The surfaces of this specimen are a bit hazy from at least four decades of storage in a manila coin envelope, but they have beautiful medium multicolored toning with reddish-gold and violet the predominant colors. There are just a few minor marks in the right obverse field, but the coin is other-

wise very nice with lustrous and semi-prooflike surfaces under the toning. This specimen is solidly in the Condition Census for the issue and is one of just a very small number of examples known in mint state. In the Briggs reference, the 1843-O Small O Quarter is noted as being Rarity-6 in mint state, and Briggs further comments that the issue is, "Very rare in Unc." Purchased by JJP from a Numismatic Gallery auction, 2/10/53, Lot 677, for \$8.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1844-O QUARTER





1311. **1844-O, Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck, particularly on the figure of Liberty and the eagle which are absolutely fully defined. There are some places of weakness in the denticles, however, and the 5th star is flat. The toning is blotchy and irregular, mostly russet with traces of violet and blue. Stars 1-7 are dramatically recut and both 4's in the date are double punched, especially noticeable on the first 4. Some microscopic planchet chips are visible in the obverse field as well as in the left

reverse field. There are quite a few hairlines in the fields and there is a noticeable test cut on the rim above the first A in AMERICA on the reverse. Although common in circulated grades up through Extremely Fine, the 1844-O is very rare in full mint state and, in fact, Larry Briggs gives it a rarity rating of High Rarity-6 in Uncirculated condition. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, Lot 475, for \$5.50.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1847 QUARTER

One Of Only 7-10 Specimens Known





1312. **1847**, **Very Choice Proof**, nearly in the Gem category. Fully struck with a sharp square edge, deeply mirrored fields, and superb light to medium multicolored iridescent toning, a nice mix of russet, gold, violet and blue, deeper and more uniform on the reverse than on the obverse. The reverse is essentially perfect and there are only a few light hairlines in the right obverse field as well as one very faint hairline across Liberty's legs. Recutting is evident on most stars and is especially prominent at stars 9, 10, and 11. The eye appeal of this piece is extraordinary due to its full strike and marvelous multicolored toning. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's famous sale of the William Cutler Atwater Collection, 6/11/46, Lot 700, for \$42.

Like all Proof Liberty Seated coinage of the 1840's, especially the Quarters, the 1847 Quarter in Proof is a great rarity. They were struck only for inclusion in the Proof sets of that year and it is my estimate that just 10-15 such sets were issued. From the original mintage, I can account for only the following seven specimens; however, it is always possible that another example or two exists. Note: In spite of

its extreme rarity, the 1847 is actually the second most common Proof Quarter of the 1840's after the "common" 1846. (JJP once returned a Proof 1846 Quarter he purchased from B. Max Mehl in 1953 and noted in his ledger, "Returned. Have too many.")

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; William C. Atwater: 700.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1441; John H. Clapp; S. H. & H. Chapman.
- 4. Norweb: 1582; Thomas L. Elder.
- 5. New Netherlands 54th sale: 1119.
- 6. Floyd T. Starr: 405; Eugene Gardner: 1641; New Netherlands 49th sale: 1153; Wayte Raymond; Hillyer Ryder; Thomas Elder's 4/25 sale.
- 7. Floyd T. Starr: 406; J.C. Morgenthau 10/39: 378.

Specimens have appeared in a number of other sales including Parmelee (1890), Winsor (1895), H.P. Smith (1906), Will W. Neil (1947) and J.H. South (1951) among others, but I think that it is likely that in most, if not all, cases these coins are represented in the above listings. However, if any of them represent examples not listed above, then there could be as many as ten examples known.

EXTREMELY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1847-O QUARTER



1313. **1847-O, Uncirculated.** Weakly struck on the head and stars and on the lowest arrow feathers; sharp elsewhere, particularly on the eagle. Moderately lustrous with irregular reddish-gold and violet toning. Numerous light contact marks and hairlines in the fields, although none of them are particularly severe. Most of the stars show recutting.



There are die scratches from the right edge of the shield into Liberty's legs. This is a rare issue even in AU condition and mint state coins are extremely rare with only a few specimens known. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's sale of 2/10/53, Lot 681, for \$10.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1848 QUARTER

One Of Only 5-6 Specimens Known



1314. **1848**, **Gem Proof.** This coin is as magnificent as a Proof of this or any era could possibly be. It is fully struck with a sharp square edge, deep mirror fields, a partial wire rim, and superb, deep multicolored iridescent toning, a gorgeous blend of violet, blue and greenish-gold. Under the toning, there are only a few faint hairlines and microscopic marks, and the overall beauty and eye appeal of this coin are simply astonishing. Purchased by JJP from Wayte Raymond's Newcomb II sale, 5/45, Lot 833, for \$37.50.

In Proof, the 1848 Quarter is an incredible rarity with perhaps only five specimens known and certainly no more than seven or eight. In the last three decades, the only other example to be offered at auction has been the Eliasberg specimen which sold in April 1997. To the best of my knowledge, only the following five specimens can be accounted for today.



- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. American Numismatic Society.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Newcomb II: 833.
- 4. Louis Eliasberg: 1443; John H. Clapp.
- 5. Eugene Gardner: 1642; New Netherlands 49th sale: 1154; Wayte Raymond; Hillyer Ryder.

Other Proof 1848 Quarters offered in the past have been the Lorin G. Parmelee (1890), Richard Winsor (1895), George Earle (1912), New Netherlands 33rd/41st sales, and Matthew A. Stickney (1907) specimens. One or more of these examples may be distinct from all of the above, but I believe that the five specimens listed are the only ones known.

FANTASTIC GEM PROOF 1849 QUARTER

Only 5-6 Proofs Known





1315. 1849, Gem Proof. Another Gem Proof of superlative, even amazing, quality. It is fully struck with a sharp square edge, a wire rim and deeply mirrored fields. The surfaces are covered with a deep iridescent blue, violet and golden toning that must be seen to be fully appreciated. Under the toning there are a number of faint planchet lines and raised die scratches from die polishing, but no hairlines, marks or impairments of any kind, although there is a tiny lint mark in the field by the 9th star. In all respects, this coin is very close to perfection and its beauty and eye appeal are just as exceptional as the technical quality. The Proof Quarters from the 1840's offered here in the Pittman Collection are all remarkable for their quality and overall attractiveness. The 1843, 1847, 1848 and 1849, as well as the 1850 and 1852 that follow, are as beautiful and high quality as any coins in the entire Pittman Collection, and I strongly encourage everyone to view them, even those not really interested in purchasing them, because such great Proof coins may never again be offered for sale in one auction. JJP purchased this coin on 10/11/49 from R. Green for \$45. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to determine any earlier pedigree.

The 1849 Quarter in Proof is more rare than the 1847 and approximately the same rarity as the 1843 and 1848. I have been able to identify only five Proofs of this issue, but, of course, it is always possible that another example or two exist. Following is a list of the five specimens known to me.

- 1. Norweb: 1585.
- 2. Louis Eliasberg: 1445; John H. Clapp; William Dickinson (1894)
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; R. Green.
- 4. John Work Garrett: 160; J. Colvin Randall: 623.
- 5. Jerome Kern: 1440.

In addition to these five examples, the Parmelee (1890), H.P. Smith (1906), Matthew A. Stickney (1907) and George Earle (1912) Collections all had 1849 Quarters in Proof. More than likely, these earlier offerings have reappeared as the specimens listed above, but one or more of them may actually represent specimens different from any of the above.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1849-O QUARTER





1316. **1849-O, Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with a full head of Liberty, well defined eagle and most of the stars sharp, although stars 7, 9, and 10 are a little weaker than the others. The coin has light golden toning and has probably been cleaned in the past since it now has moderately heavy hairlines, more on the reverse than on the obverse. There are also a few minor marks in the fields as well as several microscopic planchet chips. This is the lowest mintage Quarter of the No Motto type and it is also one of the rarest in all grades. Briggs notes that the 1849-O is,

1316 continued

"Rare in grades up to VF; very rare in XF and extremely rare AU or better". The Eliasberg specimen that sold in April 1997 was finer than this piece, but few others sold in recent years have come close to matching this Pittman example, although the Norweb specimen was also a very nice example of the issue. Purchased by JJP from Maurice Storck on 3/3/54 while both men were in attendance at the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt. JJP purchased this coin together with the 1878-S Quarter and 1873-CC With Arrows

Quarter (both offered later in this sale) for \$500 for the group. JJP gave Storck a Proof 1876 \$3 gold piece and received \$337.50 credit for it; to this he added \$265 in cash for a total credit with Storck of \$602.50. JJP received the three Quarters, which were purchased by Storck from the Farouk sale, and the 1800 Eagle offered later in this sale as Lot 1907, also from the Farouk sale, for his \$602.50. This broke down to \$500 for the three Quarters and \$102.50 for the Eagle.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1850 QUARTER

One Of Only 2-3 Specimens Known





1317. 1850, Gem Proof. Thin date, Open 5. Superb! The quality and beauty of this coin are so extraordinary that no written description can possibly do it justice. The strike is absolutely full and there is a high wire rim, especially prominent on the obverse in the upper right quadrant. The fields are deep mirrors and there is great proof luster under the superb toning which is a fiery reddishgold, violet, blue and gold. There are a few faint lines in the fields under the toning, but these are planchet lines that were present at the time of striking and not hairlines. There are tiny die defects on the upper right side and lower left side of the 0 in the date; these defects are characteristic of Proofs and appear on both indisputable Proof 1850 Quarters I have seen. The John Jay Pittman Collection has so many exceptional Proof coins of great quality and beauty that it is difficult to single out any one coin as the "most beautiful"; but, if one were to do so, this 1850 Quarter certainly would be one of the leading candidates. It was purchased by JJP from R. Green of Chicago on 5/25/49 for \$42.50. It is probably the H.P. Smith specimen sold in 1906, Lot 820.

The 1850 Quarter in Proof is exceedingly rare, even more so than the Proofs of 1847, 1848 and 1849, and it is in the same rarity class as the 1840, 1841 and 1844 Proof Quarters of which only two or three examples of each are known. Just two Proof 1850 Quarters are known with certainty, with possibly a third example also extant, although the third piece listed below is not as obvious a Proof as the other two and is open to debate as to its original minting status.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; R. Green; H.P. Smith: 820.
- Ed Hipps. A beautiful Gem specimen graded Proof 65 by NGC. Last seen in the showcase of Tangible Investments of America at the 1998 F.U.N. show.
- 3. Reed Hawn: 310; 1976 CSNS: 218, possibly the coin graded Proof 62 by both PCGS and NGC, although some, including this cataloguer, were not entirely convinced of its Proof status. (A check of the 0 in the date for the die defects would quickly settle the matter, however.) This third specimen is also probably the coin that appeared in the J.H. South Collection sale, Lot 515, sold by Stack's in 1951.

No other Proofs of this date have ever been reliably reported or even rumored. So here we have not only one of the highest quality, most beautiful coins in the entire Pittman Collection, but one of the rarest as well.

MAGNIFICENT GEM UNCIRCULATED 1850-O QUARTER

Probably The Finest Known Specimen



1318. **1850-O, Gem Uncirculated.** Weak on the upper left stars, the head of Liberty and portions of the border, but very sharp elsewhere, particularly on the eagle. Great luster and superb color, medium reddish-gold on the obverse with violet and blue near the border, and darker, cooler shades of blue, violet and russet on the reverse. There are a few faint hairlines and marks in the right obverse field, but the coin is otherwise superb. I have never seen or heard of another 1850-O Quarter that compares to this one and, in my opinion, it is probably the finest known example of this rare issue, an



issue that Larry Briggs, in his Liberty Seated Quarter reference work, notes is R-6 in Uncirculated condition. Of course, his R-6 rarity rating for mint state specimens encompasses Uncirculated examples of minimal quality as well as higher grade pieces, and so specimens in Very Choice Uncirculated or Gem condition are obviously of much greater rarity and deserve a rarity rating of at least High R-7, if not R-8. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, Lot 477, for \$5.





1319. **1851, Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with full head and star detail. All of the design elements of Miss Liberty and the eagle are also boldly defined. The surfaces are covered with deep toning in shades of violet, gold and blue-green. The reverse is very choice, but the obverse has a slightly burnished look. There are some light hairlines in the fields, especially on the obverse, and a couple of minor marks. There are also several marks on Liberty's throat as well as one raised die lump on her jaw. Despite its minor problems on the obverse, this piece is rare and desirable since high grade examples of 1851 are very rare, as evidenced by Briggs Rarity-6 rating for mint state pieces. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/4/47, Lot 1411, for \$8.





1320. **1851-O,** Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Weakly struck on the head and stars, but very sharp elsewhere. Attractive medium mottled toning with reddish-gold centers and blue and greenish-gold at the borders. Some light hairlines and marks are present in the fields on both sides of the coin. This is a very scarce, if not rare, issue in this grade. Purchased on 1/5/55 from F.K. Saab for \$7.50.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1852 QUARTER

One Of Only Two Known — The Only Collectible Specimen





1321. 1852, Gem Proof. This is an extraordinary coin with respect to both its extreme rarity and its superb quality. It is one of only two Proof 1852 Quarters in existence, the other permanently off the market in the ANS Collection. This coin is fully struck, but notably off center toward the top on the reverse leaving a very narrow rim above STATES OF and a very broad rim with a high wire edge below QUAR. DOL. The date shows obvious signs of repunching on the 8, 5 and 2, a characteristic of the ANS coin as well, according to the Larry Briggs reference work on Liberty Seated Quarters. The color of this piece is absolutely superb with beautiful medium sunset shades of reddish-gold and violet and just a trace of blue. There is a raised die scratch running from the third finger (around the pole) past the 8th star, barely touching it, to the rim. The surfaces of the coin are very high quality with no contact marks, nicks or scratches of any kind, but there are a couple of faint hairlines, including one in the right obverse field from

the drapery to the cap. This piece is one of the few coins purchased privately, rather than at auction, from legendary Ft. Worth, Texas, dealer, B. Max Mehl. It was acquired by JJP on 4/15/53 for \$50.

The Proof 1852 Quarter is one of the greatest rarities in the entire realm of Liberty Seated Proof coinage. As I stated in the first Pittman catalogue, I think that it is possible, even likely, that all Proof 1852 silver coins are restrikes as opposed to being minted in the actual year of issue. This piece makes a particularly strong case for that argument since it bears little resemblance to a typical Proof of the periods from 1840-1850 and 1854-1858. It gives the impression of being something made more hastily, perhaps later in the decade when "after hours" restrike Proofs of many issues were minted, sometimes to lower standards than Proofs that were made for legitimate presentation or sale purposes. The roster of known examples of this date in Proof is very short, consisting of only the following two specimens.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; B. Max Mehl.
- 2. American Numismatic Society; J.P. Morgan; probably Richard B. Winsor: 1070.

1322. **1852, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with full head and stars; very similar in appearance to the 1851 and, like that piece, this 1852 has probably been cleaned since it has a burnished look to it, especially on the obverse. It has deep reddish-gold and blue toning and quite a few light hair-

lines on the obverse, but relatively few on the reverse which is actually close to Choice Uncirculated. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale in October 1947 as Lot 1412 for \$7.75.





1323. **1852-O, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now with irregular medium toning in shades of blue, violet, russet and greenish-gold. Not many marks or hairlines, but somewhat dull, although some prooflike surface still shows through under

the toning on the reverse. This is a very rare coin that is seldom available above Extremely Fine. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 5/24/55 sale, Lot 55, for \$26 where it was noted that it was formerly in the Edgar Levy Collection.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1853 QUARTER

Repunched Date, No Arrows or Rays





1324. 1853, No Arrows or Rays. Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. Very sharply struck with superb detail on all design devices, including the head of Liberty, the eagle's feathers and the stars. Repunched date at 53; formerly called an overdate (1853/2) in error, but the under date is clearly 53 and not 52. Attractive uniform light golden toning and full mint frost. There are a few light hairlines in the fields as well as a couple of minor marks by Liberty's left shoulder. Purchased from a

Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 689, for \$115. Note the high price JJP paid for this coin in comparison to what he had to pay for other coins around the same time. This shows the high regard in which this issue was held many years ago; it was considered one of the great rarities in the Liberty Seated Quarter series. It is still regarded as rare today, but not quite the major rarity it was a few decades ago.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1853 QUARTER

One Of Only Five Specimens Known





1325. 1853, Arrows and Rays. Choice Proof. Fully struck with sharp head of Liberty, stars and eagle. Deep mirror fields on the obverse, less obvious mirror surface on the reverse and none within the stripes of the shield. The coin has a sharp square edge and a high wire rim. There are numerous lint marks in the right obverse field, a few of them in the left obverse field. These lint marks indicate that the dies were polished or at least wiped with a cloth before the coin was struck. There are a few planchet lines in the fields, present at the time of striking, including a long one in the right obverse field that runs under the pole. A tiny planchet chip is noted in the field at the 3rd star. The coin has beautiful toning with sunset shades of medium reddish-gold and violet. There are a few light hairlines, but no serious marks or problems, and the coin may actually be deserving of a higher grade than I have assigned it. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's Golden Anniversary Sale featuring the Ierome Kern Collection, Lot 1445, for \$43.50.

As I stated several times in my catalogue of the John Pittman Collection Sale, Part I, I do not believe that any Proofs were intentionally struck of any denomination in 1853. However, there are several coins of most denominations that do appear to be different from normal business strikes (cf. the 1853 With Arrows Half Dime and Dime in Pittman I, the 1853 Arrows and Rays Quarter in Eliasberg,

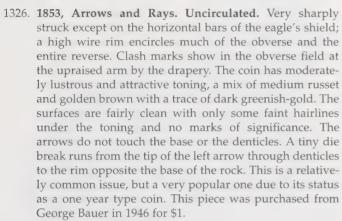
Lot 1454, and the 1853 Arrows and Rays Half Dollars in both the Norweb and Eliasberg sales), and some numismatic experts consider these pieces to be Proofs, even though I do not. I feel that these coins are most likely accidental or unintentional Proofs, but they also could be presentation coins of some sort or possibly assay pieces. Whatever their original minting status, however, they are generally regarded as Proofs in the numismatic world, and this 1853 Arrows and Rays Quarter is such a specimen. There are five 1853 Arrows and Rays Quarters that I can identify which fall into the category described above, i.e. that are Proofs as the term applies to issues of 1853. These specimens are as follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- Louis Eliasberg: 1454; John H. Clapp. The most prooflike of any of the examples I have seen and the most convincing as a true Proof.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Jerome Kern: 1445. Very "Proof" appearing on the obverse, considerably less so on the reverse.
- 4. Norweb: 1594; Thomas L. Elder.
- 5. Auction '80 (Stack's): 1184.

In addition to the five specimens listed above, 1853 Arrows and Rays Quarters described as Proofs were sold in the Cleneay (1890), Winsor (1895), Parmelee (1890), Stickney (1907), and David Wilson (1907) sales. These may be earlier offerings of the specimens listed above or they may represent one or more additional specimens.











1327. **1853-O, Arrows and Rays. Uncirculated.** Unusual medium reddish-gold and violet toning, somewhat hazy and smoky; a few light hairlines and marks are present under the toning. Sharply struck on the central devices, but weak in places at the denticles; also, stars 6-8 are flat or nearly so. Heavy recutting is evident on stars 9-12. This is a very rare issue in mint state and Larry Briggs, in his excellent reference work on Liberty Seated Quarters, assigns the 1853-O a rarity rating in Uncirculated of Rarity-6. He also goes on to note that even in AU this issue is rare. Purchased from an Abe Kosoff sale, 5/25/55, Lot 58, for \$12.50. Previously the coin had been in the Edgar Levy Collection.

VERY RARE PROOF 1854 QUARTER





1328. **1854, Arrows At Date. Choice Proof,** possibly even finer. Fully struck with deeply mirrorlike fields, a sharp square edge, and a high wire rim. Attractive light golden toning with a trace of irregular tarnish type toning on the obverse. There are a few very light hairlines in the fields, but no marks, and the coin has an excellent overall appearance. Purchased from Wayte Raymond's 2/18/47 sale, Lot 407, for \$25.50. Earlier in the William H. Woodin Collection sale of 1911, Lot 454, and prior to that, the Lorin G. Parmelee sale of 1890, Lot 1248.

In 1854, the Mint increased its production of Proof sets significantly and, although they were not yet available to the general public (the practice of selling to the public-at-large did not begin until 1858), they were available to individuals who contacted the Mint directly with a specific request to purchase a Proof set. The exact mintage of 1854 Proof sets is unknown, but perhaps as many as 30-40 silver and copper Proof sets were minted and distributed. Although others have stated a contrary opinion, I feel it is most likely that the Proof 1854 Quarters were struck only for inclusion in these sets and that all survivors today come from the original 30-40 minted. All denominations of 1854, except perhaps the Silver Dollar, are more rare in Proof than generally realized, and it is my opinion that no more than 12-15 Proofs of this denomination still exist. This specimen is certainly among the finest and it is also the one with perhaps the most famous pedigree.





1329. **1854-O, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated.** Irregular medium toning in shades of gold, blue, violet and reddish-gold. Fully struck with sharp stars and head of Liberty. There are numerous light marks and hairlines in the field under the toning. By a significant margin, the eye appeal of this coin exceeds its technical grade. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery, 2/10/53, Lot 691, for \$4.25.

VERY RARE PROOF 1855 QUARTER





1330. **1855, Arrows At Date. Choice Proof.** Very attractive, uniform light reddish-gold toning. Sharply struck on the figure of Miss Liberty and the eagle, but the arrowheads, particularly the right one, are weak, and several of the stars, especially stars 4 and 10-12, are flat. The coin has a sharp square edge, a wire rim and deep mirror fields that have only a few light hairlines and virtually no contact marks. The fields do have many planchet lines, however, that were present at the time of striking, but were not eliminated by the minting process. A long narrow, rectangular depression (created

by something, a piece of wire, wood or straw perhaps, adhering to the die) runs under the top of the eagle's right wing, and there are a couple of lint marks in the left obverse field by Liberty's arm. There is also a weakness in the denticles on the left side of both the obverse and reverse. This is a very flashy and appealing example of this very rare Proof, one of no more than 15-20 Proofs known. Purchased from the same Wayte Raymond sale as the 1854 on 2/18/47 as Lot 408 for \$24.50. Earlier, this coin had been in the famous George Earle Collection sale as Lot 3102.

EXTREMELY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1855-O QUARTER

One Of The Finest Known Specimens





1331. 1855-O, Choice Uncirculated. A wonderful specimen of this very rare issue with a sharp strike and excellent luster under attractive mottled medium russet, blue green and gold toning. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few minor marks and hairlines. The mintmark is weakly impressed in the die and "broken" at the left. There is a small area of green discoloration where the eagle's left wing joins the shield. A fine die break runs from the toe to the 13th star; other fine die breaks are around the arrowheads and date, and yet another connects the stars on the left. Die breaks also connect many of the letters in the reverse legend. Purchased by JJP on 1/7/55 from F.K. Saab for \$70.

The 1855-O Quarter is scarce in all grades and a major rarity in full mint state with only a handful of Uncirculated specimens known. The superb Eliasberg specimen is by far the finest example in existence and I am not aware of any others that grade Gem Uncirculated by today's strict grading standards. This specimen, without known earlier auction pedigree, is certainly one of the two or three finest after the Eliasberg coin, roughly comparable to the Reed Hawn-Philip Speir specimen, later bought and sold by Paramount International Coin Corp. in the late 1970's. Larry Briggs refers to this issue as High Rarity-7 in mint state, a rating with which I agree completely.





1332. **1855-S**, Extremely Fine. Dull medium gray and gold color. Sharply struck with no serious marks other than a few small rim nicks, but the surfaces of the coin are a little rough as they are on many examples of this rare issue. The mintmark is high and solidly touches the arrow feather and stem of the olive branch. Purchased from F.K. Saab on 1/15/55 for \$110.

VERY RARE PROOF 1856 QUARTER



1333. 1856, Choice Proof. Very sharply struck except on the first few stars which show only a few of their radial lines. Deep mirror fields and a sharp square edge with a partial wire rim. Beautiful toning which is light reddish-gold and blue on the obverse and deeper blue, violet and gold on the reverse. The obverse has light to moderate hairlines, the reverse only a few insignificant ones under the deep toning. Below the date there are numerous raised die scratches. Struck from a reverse die which has a prominent bulge under the eagle's right wing. (This same reverse was used for the Proofs of 1857.) Proof Quarters of this date are certainly very rare, but not nearly as much so as Proofs of 1854 and 1855. The Quarter is more rare in Proof than the other silver denominations of 1856 (except the Half Dollar); it is doubtful if more than 25-30 examples exist, very few of which are more choice, and almost none of which are prettier, than this specimen. Purchased 5/14/46 from Wayte Raymond for \$25.

- 1334. **1856-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Irregular medium blue, gold and violet toning. Sharply struck with decent luster under the toning, especially on the reverse. There are a number of light hairlines and contact marks in the fields on both sides. Just a trace of friction on the breast and thigh of Liberty keep this from the Uncirculated grade. This is a very scarce issue in this condition and a very rare one significantly finer. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale on 2/10/53, Lot 694, for \$3.50.
- 1335. A pair of 1856-S Quarters, both counterstamped "J. L. Polhemus/Druggist/190 J. St. COR. 7th/Sacramento, Cal.". There is also a small mortar and pestle between the first two lines. Of these two pieces, one grades Good, the other Poor with only the top of the 6 showing and most of the S mintmark, but very little of the main design. The "best" of the two was purchased from E. A. Parker in 1953 for \$2.50, the other from a person and at a time unknown. JJP has indicated on his coin envelope that these are "Rare".

J.L. Polhemus put his counterstamp on a number of coins in the 1850's and 1860's, and there are indications that he may have stamped virtually every coin that came through his drug store rather than just a few selected pieces. Of the denominations so stamped, Quarters are by far the most common with Half Dollars the next most common. Furthermore, of the Quarter issues that are known with the Polhemus counterstamp, 1856 is the date most often encountered.

BEAUTIFUL AND RARE PROOF 1857 QUARTER



1336. **1857**, **Very Choice Proof**. This coin is of slightly higher technical quality than the 1856, but it is not quite as attractively toned. It is fully struck and has a sharp square edge, a high wire rim and deep mirrorlike fields. The characteristic die bulge under the eagle's right wing is clearly evident as it is on all known specimens of this issue. A few very faint hairlines are almost entirely obscured by attractive delicate reddish-gold, violet and blue toning with all of these hues more pronounced on the obverse than on the reverse. The fields also show a few planchet lines that were not completely struck out by the minting process. Purchased from Wayte Raymond's 2/18/47 sale, Lot 410, for \$18.50. Earlier the coin was in the William H. Woodin sale of 1911 as Lot 458.

Although other numismatic experts (Walter Breen, Larry Briggs, and Q. David Bowers among others) have stated a contrary opinion, it has been my experience that the 1857 Quarter in Proof is significantly less rare than the 1856, as is the case with all of the denominations from this year except the Silver Dollar. Perhaps as many as 30-40 Proof 1857 Quarters exist, but relatively few are as attractive and high quality as this specimen.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1857-O QUARTER





1337. **1857-O**, **Uncirculated**. Softly struck on the head of Liberty and right hand stars, as well as on the reverse at the arrow feathers. Highly lustrous with nice medium golden toning which covers a number of light hairlines and marks. This is a very rare issue in mint state with perhaps no more than 15-20 specimens known, few of those above the minimal Uncirculated level. Purchased from James Kelly's 1949 CSNS sale, Lot 1160, for \$3.75.

EXTREMELY RARE AND CHOICE 1858-O OUARTER





1338. 1858-O, Choice Uncirculated. Very sharply struck on the seated figure of Liberty as well as on the eagle, but weak at places in the denticles, especially on the obverse, and on the majority of stars; those on the left, i.e. stars 1-7, are all flat as is star 13. Recutting is evident on most of the stars. The obverse has semi-prooflike surfaces and the reverse is almost fully frosty. The toning is unusual, but very attractive, with sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and gold. There is one small nick on Liberty's upper left arm near the clasp in the gown and the coin also has a few other trivial marks and hairlines. Nevertheless, this is an exceptionally fine looking example of this issue which is notably rare in mint state and extremely rare in this choice condition. In his Encyclopedia, Walter Breen notes that the 1858-O is, "Ex. rare UNC.", and Larry Briggs concurs by describing this issue as Rarity-7 in mint state. Without question, this specimen is in the Condition Census for the issue and is, in fact, probably one of the two or three finest 1858-O Quarters in existence. Purchased by JJP from David Bullowa on 9/27/47 for \$9.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1859-O OUARTER



1339. **1859-O, Choice Uncirculated,** possibly even finer. Beautiful sunset toning in shades of reddish-gold, blue and violet. Sharply struck with very clean surfaces that have scarcely any hairlines or marks; in fact, the reverse is virtually in the Gem category. Considerable luster remains under the toning. This issue is similar in rarity to the 1858-O, perhaps just a little less rare in mint state. Again, Walter Breen, in his Encyclopedia, notes that this issue is, "Ex. rare UNC", while Briggs assigns it a rarity rating of High Rarity-6 in mint state. Examples at this quality level are very rare and this specimen is undoubtedly one of the four or five finest known examples of the issue. Like the 1858-O in the preceding lot, this 1859-O was purchased on 9/27/47 from David Bullowa for \$7.25.





- 1340. **1860, Choice Uncirculated.** Type II obverse, Type I reverse. Almost fully prooflike, but with random patches of mint frost. Somewhat deceptive; purchased as a Proof by JJP, but this coin is definitely a business strike. The edge is not square, the rims are well rounded, and all the stars at the left are flat. This is the Briggs 1-A variety. The color is a particularly appealing light to medium reddish-gold turning deeper shades of the same color at the rims with violet and blue highlights. There are light hairlines on both sides, but no marks, and the overall appearance of this coin is excellent. Purchased from Kreisberg-Schulman's sale of 9/18/61 as Lot 795 for \$40.
- 1341. **1860-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Weakly impressed mintmark. Cleaned, now with dull irregular multicolored toning and numerous hairlines and marks in the fields. Purchased 9/27/47 from David Bullowa for \$3.25.

- 1342. **1864, Proof.** 470 Proofs minted. Medium gray, gold and blue toning. Light to moderate hairlines on the obverse, but the reverse is rather choice. There are also a few marks on the face and neck of Liberty plus another in the field by the 6th star. Purchased from a Jim Charlton sale, 5/25/64, Lot 306, for \$50.
- 1343. **1868, Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. 600 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim, deep mirror fields and attractive light multicolored iridescent toning. Some light hairlines and marks in the fields, including one fairly prominent scratch in the right obverse field. Purchased from a Jim Charlton sale, 5/25/64, Lot 310, for \$50.





1344. **1870-CC**, **Very Good to Fine**. Medium reddish-gold and gray toning covers dull surfaces that have many scratches and marks. There is a large defect on the rim, possibly "as made", between stars 4 and 5. This is one of the rarest issues in the Liberty Seated Quarter series, in fact, the rarest after the 1873-CC No Arrows. As such, it is highly desirable even in this relatively low grade. Purchased from a French's sale, 2/14/59, Lot 614, for \$75.





1345. **1871-CC, Very Good to Fine.** Actually, this piece is somewhat finer than the preceding lot since it has a full LIBERTY and thus might deserve to be graded a full Fine. It has light to medium reddish-gold and gray toning with a few iridescent highlights. There is not much, if any, luster and the dull surfaces have a number of light scratches and marks. Purchased from the same sale as the preceding, namely, French's 2/14/59 sale, Lot 616, for \$63.

Because of its higher mintage, the 1871-CC, although well respected as a rare issue, is not generally considered to be as rare as the 1870-CC. However, based on my perception of their availability, I feel the two issues are really very nearly of equal overall rarity.





1346. 1872-CC, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Irregular medium blue, violet, and greenish-gold color. Light marks and hairlines in the fields, but not bad looking for the grade. Another very rare Carson City issue, although not in the same rarity class as the 1870-CC or 1871-CC. Purchased on 1/14/55 from F.K. Saab for \$160.

1347. **1873**, **No Arrows**. **Proof**. 600 Proofs minted. Probably cleaned at one time, now with irregular medium multicolored toning. The surfaces are moderately hairlined and there is a small nick on the throat of Liberty.





1348. 1873-CC, Arrows At Date. Very Good to Fine. Full LIB-ERTY and thus perhaps deserving of a higher grade, but this coin has been harshly cleaned at one time leaving it with no luster and many hairlines. There is also a large dig in the field by the right leg of Liberty. This is one of three coins purchased as a group for \$500 from Maurice Storck in March 1954 while Storck and JJP were attending the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt. Also in the group were the 1849-O Quarter and the 1878-S Quarter that are offered in this Pittman sale; all three of the pieces had been purchased by Storck from the Farouk sale. This issue is considerably more rare than the 1872-CC and very nearly in the same rarity class as the 1870-CC and 1871-CC.

1349. **1873-S, Arrows At Date. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light reddish-gold toning with traces of other colors including greenish-gold and violet. Very sharply struck. There are some light handling marks in the fields and also a pin scratch below the eagle's right wing. Purchased as "Unc." on 1/14/55 from F.K. Saab for \$27.50.

1350. **1874-S**, **Arrows At Date. Almost Uncirculated.** Attractive light mottled toning in shades of greenish-gold, violet and russet. Rather well struck on the central devices, but the head is a bit weak and the stars are flat. There is considerable luster under the toning and the surfaces of the coin have relatively few hairlines and contact marks. Purchased from F.K. Saab, 1/15/55, for \$27.50.





1351. **1875, Choice Proof,** possibly even finer. 630 Proofs minted. Type II reverse with TAT in STATES spaced well apart. Mostly brilliant, but with beautiful light golden toning turning to deeper reddish-gold at the borders. Very sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields, a partial wire rim and superb proof luster. Briggs notes that, "The 1875 proof quarter (is) the rarest proof quarter of either the 1870's or 1880's". Purchased from Hans Schulman's sale of the Herdegen Collection, 12/73, Lot 598, for \$250.

Neither Breen nor Briggs mentions the existence of this variety in Proof and they indicate that all Proofs were struck with the Type I reverse. The Eliasberg specimen, Lot 1509, was also struck with the Type I reverse and the cataloguer noted that, "This identical reverse die was used to coin proof Liberty Seated quarters from 1872-1876 inclusive and is seen on all the Eliasberg Collection proofs offered in this range". Based on these comments, it appears as though this Proof 1875 Quarter with the Type II reverse may be a rare and important coin.





1352. **1875-CC**, Very Choice Uncirculated. Type II reverse with TAT widely spaced at the bases. Sharply struck with lustrous semi-prooflike fields and superb medium reddishgold, violet and blue toning. There are only a few light contact marks and hairlines in the fields and, overall, the coin has an outstanding appearance. This is a notably scarce and underrated issue and it is actually one of the rarest of all Liberty Seated Quarters from 1875-1891. This coin was purchased by JJP for \$6.50, seller and date of purchase unknown.

RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1875-S QUARTER





1353. **1875-S, Gem Uncirculated.** Type I reverse with TAT close at the bases. Tiny S mintmark positioned at the far left end of the lowest arrow feather. The left end of the scroll which contains the motto IN GOD WE TRUST above the eagle is completely detached due to die lapping. This specimen is very sharply struck and has superb satiny luster and fabulous color, a rich autumn leaves blend of reddish-gold, blue, green and violet. There is a tiny area of dark tarnish at the bend of Liberty's elbow, around the pole. This specimen was purchased from Numismatic Gallery's famous Menjou Collection sale, 6/15/50, Lot 897, for \$4.25.

Like the 1875-CC in the preceding lot, the 1875-S is a scarce and underrated issue, especially in the higher mint state grades. It is not as rare as the 1875-CC, but it is significantly more rare in Choice Uncirculated or finer condition than all but a few of the issues from 1875 until the end of the design in 1891.

- 1354. 1875-S, Uncirculated. Same variety as the preceding lot, i.e. Type I with TAT close at the bases of the letters and the left end of the scroll completely detached. The mintmark is tiny and positioned at the left end of the arrow feather. This coin has a Gem reverse and is fully brilliant and well struck. There is, however, a dull discoloration in the right obverse field by the leg as well as around the date. There is a small abrasion on the rock and the left side of the shield. Lacquered at one time, but this has now been largely removed. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 725, for \$5.
- 1355. 1875-S, Uncirculated. Type II reverse with TAT widely separated at the bases of the letters. Medium S mintmark. A huge die break runs all around the reverse through the tops of the letters of the legend and the bases of QUAR. DOL. Sharply struck, but the date is weakly impressed into the die. Beautiful medium reddish-gold, violet and blue toning. A few marks, hairlines and abrasions are present including a small abrasion in the right obverse field and one on the thigh. Purchased by JJP as part of Lot 583 from the 1946 ANA sale. The lot also contained the 1876-S that follows in Lot 1357. The price paid for this lot of two coins was \$4.25.





- 1356. **1876-CC, Very Choice Uncirculated,** virtually in the Gem category. Type I reverse, small CC mintmark, the date slants up slightly from left to right. A very sharply struck specimen with a partially prooflike obverse and a frosty reverse. The toning is superb with medium shades of gold, blue, russet and violet. There is one small nick on Liberty's jaw and a few light hairlines in the fields, but the color and luster give this coin outstanding eye appeal. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 93rd sale, 6/21-22/46, Lot 967, for \$2.90. This is the most common Liberty Seated Quarter from the Carson City Mint, but examples of this quality, toning and appearance are moderately scarce.
- 1357. **1876-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous specimen with light reddish-gold and blue toning. The strike is very sharp and the fields are clean with only a few tiny marks and virtually no hairlines. Purchased as part of a two coin lot (along with the 1875-S in Lot 1355) from Numismatic Gallery's 1946 ANA sale, Lot 583, for \$4.25.

GEM PROOF 1877 QUARTER





1358. **1877, Gem Proof.** 510+ Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and wonderful medium blue, greenish-gold and reddish-gold toning. The reverse is more deeply toned than the obverse and also has a hint of violet in the colors. The obverse has a few very light hairlines, but the reverse is pristine and the coin is extremely attractive overall. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 604, for \$325.

SUPERB 1877-CC QUARTER



- 1359. **1877-CC, Gem Uncirculated.** Superb! Spectacular overall quality and appearance. Very sharply struck with magnificent medium blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet toning over literally flawless satiny surfaces. This is the second most common Carson City Mint Liberty Seated Quarter after the 1876-CC, but specimens of this quality are definitely rare. Acquired by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 91st sale, 2/10/46, Lot 84, for \$1.95.
- 1360. **1877-CC**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Mostly brilliant with just a trace of toning. A little weak on the head of Liberty and the top stars. Many striations in the reverse fields from die polishing. There are many light hairlines on the obverse, but the coin is still very flashy and quite attractive. Purchased by JJP for \$1, date and seller unknown.
- 1361. **1877-S, Uncirculated.** Light iridescent reddish-gold and pale violet toning. A few minor hairlines and marks in the fields. Lustrous and well struck. Purchased for \$0.75, date of purchase and seller not recorded in JJP's notes.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED GEM PROOF 1878 OUARTER





1362. 1878, Gem Proof. 800 Proofs minted. This is an exquisitely beautiful Proof Liberty Seated Quarter Dollar with gorgeous multicolored iridescent toning and nearly flawless mirror surfaces that have only a few trivial hairlines concealed by the toning. The obverse has a light reddish-gold center turning to violet, blue and greenish-gold at the border. The reverse is more deeply toned with medium reddish-gold and violet in the center and deep blue and greenish-gold at the border. For sheer beauty of toning, especially on the reverse, this coin is matched by few other Proof 1878 Quarters. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 9/18/61 sale, Lot 812, for \$24.





- 1363. **1878-CC**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with a full head and most of the stars showing their full radial lines, although stars 6 and 7 are a little weak and star 8 is nearly flat. Light golden toning covers moderately lustrous, fully frosty surfaces that have only a few light hairlines, most of which are in the obverse fields. There are a few tiny die rust spots on Liberty's legs. Purchased by JJP on 5/5/61 from Donald Thompson for \$21.
- 1364. **1878-CC, Uncirculated.** Smoky dull medium blue and violet toning. Sharply struck with small cuds on the rim by stars 10-13. There are some light hairlines in the fields and a large obverse rim nick by the 5th star. Purchased from Wayte Raymond on 10/19/43 for \$2.65.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1878-S QUARTER





1365. 1878-S, Uncirculated. Almost fully brilliant, but with just a trace of light golden toning. Numerous light hairlines in the fields on both sides, as well as one small scratch in the right obverse field. Very sharply struck with all the design details bold, including the head of Liberty and every star. Purchased by JJP from Maurice Storck in March 1954 when both were in attendance at the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt. JJP purchased this coin from Storck along with the 1849-O and 1873-CC With Arrows offered earlier in this sale; JJP paid \$500 for the three pieces. All three of the coins had been acquired by Storck from the Farouk sale as part of Lot 1686 which contained 187 Quarters from 1796 to the Washington type.

For many years, this issue was considered to be one of the rarest of all Liberty Seated Quarters. Today, although it is still held in high regard, particularly in mint state, the 1878-S is not considered to be quite as rare as it was once thought to be. The mintage of the 1878-S Quarter was certainly sufficiently high that the issue should not be especially rare today, but it is undoubtedly the case that many, if not most, of the mintage were melted to be converted into Morgan Silver Dollars. Larry Briggs has assigned this issue a rarity rating in mint state of High Rarity-6, which means that less than 20 Uncirculated examples are thought to exist.





1366. **1879, Choice Proof.** 250 Proofs minted per official Mint records, but undoubtedly hundreds more were actually struck since 1,100 Proof sets were issued; however, some of the sets may have contained business strikes. This piece is very brilliant and lustrous with beautiful light golden toning. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but no marks, and the coin is really quite attractive. Purchased from Paul Seitz in 1962, price unknown.

1367. **1881, Choice Proof.** 975 Proofs minted. Very attractive toning, particularly on the reverse which has iridescent blue, violet and russet toning at the periphery turning to brilliant light gold at the center. The obverse is more lightly toned with a warm golden glow over much of the surfaces and just a trace of peripheral toning. Repunching is visible in the upper loop of the first 8 and the lower loop of the second 8 in the date. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 613, for \$220.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1888-S QUARTER



1368. **1888-S, Gem Uncirculated.** This is a superb looking coin that is fully struck and has magnificent medium reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. The surfaces under the toning are frosty and lustrous and have only a few trivial hairlines. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the famous Will W. Neil Collection, 6/17/47, Lot 1092, for \$3. Earlier, the coin was in Mehl's sale of the Belden Roach Collection in 1944, Lot 2324.

Over the past decade or more, in the pages of the Gobrecht Journal, there has been some considerable debate over the rarity of this issue. Some correspondents indicated that they considered the issue to be rare, at least in high grade, whereas others considered it to be one of the more common issues of the series. In my experience, the 1888-S is scarce, but certainly not rare in any grade short of Gem condition. True Gems, however, are actually quite rare, certainly significantly more so than any of the low mintage Philadelphia Mint issues of the 1880's.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1891-O QUARTER

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



1369. **1891-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike fields, a sharp strike, and beautiful multicolored iridescent toning, a mottled blend of russet, violet, and blue with the colors a bit deeper on the reverse than on the obverse. All stars show their full radial lines and the head is strong, although not quite full. A few light hairlines and minor marks in the fields are mostly hidden by the toning. As choice as this coin is from a technical grade standpoint, its eye appeal is even better. Purchased from L. Babin on 12/13/52 for \$40.



The 1891-O Liberty Seated Quarter is one of the rarest issues in the series, particularly in mint state; most available examples are circulated, rarely surpassing the Extremely Fine level. The wondrous Eliasberg coin was by far the finest known and there are also several specimens known that have some credibility as branch mint Proofs. However, this specimen, with its high quality surfaces and particularly attractive toning, certainly ranks among the handful of finest known examples of this rare and desirable issue.

- 1370. **1891-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Just a touch of friction on the breast of Liberty and on the eagle's feathers. Irregular violet, gold, russet, and blue toning, beneath which is decent luster and only a few minor marks and hairlines. Purchased by JJP from Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection in 1947, Lot 1093, for \$3.
- 1371. **1892-O, Barber Type. Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. Type I reverse. Sharply struck and fully frosty with medium multicolored toning in shades of greenish-gold, russet, violet, and blue. Minimal marks and no hairlines, but there is a trace of weakness or friction on top of the hair at the forehead. This Type I variety, where the eagle's left wing covers half of the E in UNITED, is significantly more scarce than the Type II variety.





1372. **1892-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Type I reverse. A splendid, satiny specimen with a sharp strike and lovely light multicolored toning, a bit deeper on the reverse than on the

- obverse. The surfaces of the coin are quite clean with only a few tiny marks on the cheek and in the fields. The mintmark has a large S punched over a smaller S; I have not seen such a specimen before nor have I ever seen this characteristic mentioned in any auction catalogue. However, only time and close inspection of a number of pieces will indicate whether or not this is a rare variety.
- 1373. **1893-O, Uncirculated.** Mintmark far right. Well struck for an O Mint Quarter with the very broad rims that are typical of Barber coins from this southern Mint. Attractive medium blue-green, russet and gold toning. There are a few light hairlines on the face and neck, but the obverse fields are quite clean. The reverse is choice and very attractive. The eye appeal of this coin is significantly better than its technical grade.

Buyer's Charge

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to all invoices. This buyer's charge is applicable to all successful bidders regardless of affiliation with any group or organization.

GEM MINT STATE 1893-S BARBER QUARTER





1374. **1893-S**, **Gem Uncirculated**. Beautifully toned with medium to deep shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue. Under the toning, the surfaces are lustrous and semi-prooflike and have only a few minor, almost insignificant marks. This piece has exceptional eye appeal and is one of the nicest specimens that I have encountered. Scarce in any mint state grade, the 1893-S is particularly difficult to find in grades above Choice Uncirculated. Purchased from a French's sale, 2/14/59, Lot 654, for \$27.

BEAUTIFUL GEM UNCIRCULATED 1894-O BARBER OUARTER



1375. **1894-O, Gem Uncirculated.** Mintmark far to the right, over the left edge of D in DOLLAR. This coin is absolutely magnificent with a very sharp strike, the broad rims and accentuated milling usually seen on O Mint Barber coins of this era, and a square edge. The surfaces are highly lustrous and semi-prooflike and are covered with gorgeous medium reddish-gold toning that is highlighted with a touch of violet and blue. Close inspection reveals a few microscopic marks, but the coin is still superb in all respects and easily one of the top few specimens known. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery auction, 2/10/53, Lot 760, for \$17.50.

- 1376. **1894-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Medium reddish-gold, violet and blue toning on the obverse, cooler shades of russet and blue green on the reverse. Not especially lustrous and there also some light hairlines and minor marks. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1076, for \$4.35.
- 1377. **1895-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with light gold and violet toning. There is a small milling mark on the cheek below Liberty's eye and also a few light hairlines and marks randomly scattered on the surfaces of the coin. JJP paid \$2.60 for this coin, but the seller and date of purchase have not been recorded.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1895-S OUARTER



1378. **1895-S, Gem Uncirculated.** Mintmark far right, over the upright of the D in DOLLAR. Sharp and lustrous with beautiful natural russet and violet toning. There are only a few minor handling marks on the obverse and the coin has excellent overall eye appeal. This is rare and underrated issue, especially in grades above Choice Uncirculated. Purchased from an Abe Kosoff sale, 5/24/55, Lot 137, for \$27.50.

VERY RARE GEM MINT STATE 1896-O BARBER QUARTER



1379. **1896-O, Gem Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck, indeed remarkably so for an 1896-O Barber Quarter. The border is broad and the edge is square with the accentuated milling that is seen on many O Mint Quarters and Half Dollars of the Barber type. The toning is superb, a mottled medium blend of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. There is one tiny mark on the cap below G in GOD, but the surfaces are otherwise nearly pristine, including the face and the fields. This is a marvelous example of this rare issue, certainly one of the finest known, and distinctly surpassed by no other



specimen known to me, including the Eliasberg and Norweb examples. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 767, for \$47.50.

The 1896-O Quarter is one of the premier rarities of the Barber Quarter series. In mint state, it is surpassed in rarity only by the three most famous issues of the series, the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S. At the Gem level, especially with the superb eye appeal of this piece, the 1896-O is very rare and I would be surprised if more than 12-15 such examples exist. This coin is easily the highlight of JJP's collection of Barber Quarters.

1380. **1897**, **Choice Proof**. 731 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields, a very sharp strike, and irregular medium toning in shades of blue, gold and russet; this toning is slightly darker on the obverse than it is on the reverse. The surfaces have some light hairlines, but no marks worth mentioning. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 2/18/61 sale, Lot 2678, for \$39.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1897-O QUARTER





1381. **1897-O, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Generally very sharply struck except for a slight weakness on the eagle's right talons and on the arrow feathers. Superb medium toning, mostly reddish-gold with iridescent greenish-gold at the border. There is one old mark on the cheek of Liberty, possibly "as made", and the toning over the mark is missing. A few tiny hairline die breaks are seen on the obverse connecting various stars as well as numerals in the date. This is a rare issue above the Choice Uncirculated grade, but it is not quite as rare as the 1896-O. Purchased from an Abe Kosoff sale, 5/24/55, Lot 142, for \$65. Previously in the Edgar Levy Collection.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1899-O BARBER QUARTER





1382. 1899-O, Gem Uncirculated. A beautiful specimen that is similar in appearance to the 1896-O, but just a little more deeply toned. It is very sharply struck with broad borders and the typical O Mint square edge and accentuated milling. The surfaces are covered with smoky medium reddish-gold and violet toning; there is just a trace of green verdigris under the nose. The fields and devices are very clean with only a few trivial marks, including a couple of tiny ones on the neck that are hidden by the toning. This is another very scarce O Mint Barber Quarter, although it is not quite in the same rarity class as the 1896-O, 1897-O or 1898-O (not present in this collection). In grades above Choice Uncirculated, the 1899-O is rare and true Gems such as this one are very rare. Acquired by JJP from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 773, for \$20.

1383. 1900-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state and likely to be so graded by some. Sharply struck with medium reddish-gold, violet and blue toning. There is one noticeable abrasion to the left of Liberty's eye as well as some other minor hairlines and marks.

GORGEOUS GEM UNCIRCULATED 1900-S BARBER QUARTER



1384. **1900-S, Gem Uncirculated.** A gorgeous original coin that is fully struck and lustrous and has beautiful light violet and gold toning. The satiny surfaces have only a few trivial marks, including three tiny ones on the truncation of the neck just above 00 in the date. Overall, this coin has exceptional eye appeal and it ranks as one of the handful of finest known examples of this rare issue. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's famous Thomas Melish sale, 4/56, Lot 825, for \$35.

The 1900-S Barber Quarter is only moderately scarce in the lower mint state grades up through and including Choice Uncirculated. However, above the Choice grade level, this issue becomes increasingly difficult to find and true Gems like this are much more rare than commonly believed. In fact, the 1900-S, like a number of other S Mint issues, is actually considerably more difficult to find in Gem condition than the much more famous and higher priced 1913-S.

1385. **1901-S**, **About Good**. Clear date and mintmark. Light gray and gold color. The obverse is presentable with the rim just wearing into the stars on the right. The rim on the reverse, however, is worn well into the legend. The milling is almost completely gone. Appropriate as a "space filler" example of the rarest and most famous issue in the series.





1386. 1902-O, Choice Uncirculated, possibly even finer. Very weak, barely visible mintmark, the result of being weakly punched into the die since the coin is otherwise very sharply struck. The coin has attractive medium reddishgold, violet and blue green toning. There is one long hairline across the truncation of the neck, but the coin is otherwise a Gem. Despite its very high mintage of nearly 5,000,000 pieces, the 1902-O is an issue that is difficult to find in grades of Choice Uncirculated or better, and it is actually quite scarce in all mint state grades. JJP paid \$7 for this coin, but there is no indication in his notes of the seller or the date of purchase.





- 1387. **1903-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Fully brilliant and boldly struck with a sharp, square edge. There is a small lint mark on the nose as well as a few very light contact marks on the face. The reverse is very nice and nearly Gem quality, although it does have a few light carbon streaks in the legend. This is a very scarce issue in grades of Choice Uncirculated or better, roughly comparable overall to the 1902-O as well as a number of other issues in this series. Acquired at the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/10/53, as Lot 783, for \$35.
- 1388. 1905-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Just the slightest touch of friction on the highest points keep this coin from grading fully Uncirculated. It is sharply struck for an O Mint Quarter and has medium multicolored toning as well as a few light hairlines and marks on the cheek. Purchased for \$9, date of purchase and seller unknown.
- 1389. 1905-S, Uncirculated. Sharply struck with lustrous, satiny surfaces and attractive medium greenish-gold, blue, reddish-gold and violet toning. Marks and hairlines are minimal. Purchased for \$7.50, no other information available.
- 1390. **1906-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Medium multicolored toning; a long hairline scratch across the face of Liberty and another across the shield and eagle's left wing. In addition to these two scratches, there are some light handling marks and hairlines present. Purchased by JJP for \$2.50, no other information available.





- 1391. 1907, Very Choice Proof. 575 Proofs minted. Mostly brilliant, but with some light golden toning and one darker toning spot in the field in front of the neck. There is a short scratch in the field in front of the bridge of the nose and a few other very faint hairlines. A small lint mark is also noted between the 1 in the date and the 1st star. Much more attractive than the description makes it sound, and the coin really has a very pleasing overall appearance.
- 1392. 1907-O, Uncirculated. A satiny specimen with light reddish-gold toning highlighted with violet and blue. There is an unusual dark toning streak at the 8th star. There are also a few minor marks and hairlines on the face and one larger abrasion in the field in front of the neck. Purchased for \$2.50, but no additional information is available.





1393. 1907-S, Very Choice Uncirculated. A very lustrous, satiny specimen with beautiful natural toning, light reddish-gold in the centers with deeper reddish-gold at the borders combined with a trace of blue and violet. There are only a few tiny marks and hairlines on the coin, none more than barely noticeable. Above the Choice Uncirculated grade level, the 1907-S is a surprisingly difficult issue to find. This coin was purchased by JJP from James Kelly's 1949 Central States auction, Lot 1151, for \$8.50.





1394. **1908-O, Choice Uncirculated.** A very sharp specimen that looks like a Gem quality coin because of its excellent luster and superb natural toning, a blend of light reddish-gold in the centers and deeper violet, blue and

greenish-gold at the borders. The fields are very clean, but the coin is downgraded slightly due to some minor marks on the face and neck that are mostly hidden under the toning; there are also a couple of very small reverse edge nicks. This is one of the more common mintmarked issues in the Barber Quarter series, although specimens are not often seen this well struck, lustrous and attractively toned. JJP paid \$2 for this coin sometime in the 1940's, but I have been unable to locate any additional information concerning the details of the purchase.

RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1908-S QUARTER



1395. 1908-S, Gem Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with highly lustrous, satiny surfaces and only a few inconsequential marks. The toning is somewhat streaky, but completely natural and very attractive with shades of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. This toning is quite a bit deeper on the reverse than it is on the obverse. This is an exceptional example of this issue, undoubtedly one of the finer ones known in terms of technical grade, and certainly at or near the top of the list when it comes to originality and attractiveness. The 1908-S is a very scarce issue in all mint state grades and a rare one in Gem condition. In fact, one would be considerably more likely to be able to locate a Gem 1913-S Quarter than another 1908-S Quarter of this quality. Purchased by JJP sometime in the late 1940's for \$6.85, but, unfortunately, I have not been able to determine any additional information.

1396. **1909, Proof.** 650 Proofs minted. Blotchy russet toning, probably the result of being cleaned. There are many light hairlines behind the head and a few marks in the field in front of the face.

VERY RARE GEM 1909-O BARBER QUARTER





1397. 1909-O, Gem Uncirculated. Extremely well struck, in fact, just as sharp in almost every respect as most Philadelphia and San Francisco Mint coins of this type. It has frosty, lustrous surfaces and beautiful medium to deep multicolored toning, a nice mix of violet, greenishgold, blue and reddish-gold. There are only a few microscopic marks and hairlines under the toning and the overall appearance of this specimen is absolutely first rate, among the finest that I have ever seen. JJP purchased this from his good friend Abe Kosoff's famous Edwin Hydeman sale, March 3-4, 1961, Lot 462, for \$145. Since Kosoff had estimated the coin at \$225, I am sure that JJP was very pleased with his purchase; he loved buying coins at auction, especially at prices well below the estimates.

The 1909-O Barber Quarter is one of the prime rarities in the series and a very strong case could be made for it being the rarest Barber Quarter from the New Orleans Mint, its principal competition for that honor coming from the 1896-O and 1898-O. In all mint state grades, the 1909-O is very difficult to locate and Gems are very rare; I do not think it unreasonable to estimate that no more than 15-20 such specimens are known. In fact, the Norweb and Eliasberg examples are the only other two Gems that I can recall seeing in recent years that could compare in overall quality to this outstanding coin.





1398. 1909-S, Very Choice Uncirculated. Lustrous, satiny surfaces and very attractive light mottled russet, blue and violet toning. Very sharp, but not quite fully struck due to a slight weakness on the eagle's right talons and the arrow feathers. There are some very minor handling marks on the face and neck, but this is really a most attractive, original specimen. The 1909-S is a moderately scarce issue in all mint state grades, although it does not compare in rarity at any grade level to the 1907-S and 1908-S immediately preceding it. Purchased by JJP for \$7, date of purchase and seller unknown.

GEM PROOF 1910 BARBER QUARTER





1399. 1910, Gem Proof. 551 Proofs minted. This is a magnificent Proof Barber Quarter with its superb toning, deep mirror fields and very high quality surfaces that are virtually free of marks or hairlines of any kind whatsoever. The reverse is flawless and extremely attractively toned in deep shades of blue, violet and reddish-gold. The obverse is lighter, but equally pretty with pale reddish-gold toning in the center, deeper blue green behind the head of Liberty, and russet and violet at the right border. Proof Barber Quarters do not come any more beautifully toned than this one. Purchased from Wayte Raymond, 5/46, for \$6.

1400. **1911-S, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with satiny surfaces and medium mottled multicolored toning; not a great deal of luster for a S Mint Barber Quarter. There is a small milling mark by the nose of Liberty and a few light hairlines randomly scattered on the surfaces of the coin. JJP paid \$7.50 for this Quarter, but no additional information is available.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1912-S QUARTER





1401. 1912-S, Gem Uncirculated. A fully struck specimen with very deep irregular multicolored toning which is mostly russet with some traces of violet and gold. This kind of toning makes it very difficult to see under it to determine the extent of marks or hairlines, but there do not seem to be many, if indeed any, worth noting. For such a dark and unusually toned coin, I think that this specimen is really rather attractive. However, this kind of toning does not appeal to everyone and so although some will like it, others will not. This issue is moderately scarce in all mint state grades and very scarce, if not rare, in Gem condition. JJP purchased this coin from Abe Kosoff's sale of the Melish Collection in April 1956 as Lot 848 for \$62.50.





- 1402. 1915, Choice Proof. 450 Proofs minted. Mottled violet, blue and reddish-gold toning, darkest at the date. There are a few trivial marks and hairlines, but nothing serious. Purchased from George Bauer in September 1945 for \$3.50.
- 1403. **1915-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Light to medium reddish gold and violet toning. Quite a few light hairlines and minor marks. Purchased for \$6, seller and date of purchase unknown.
- 1404. 1917, Standing Liberty Type, Type I. Very Choice Uncirculated. Full Head. Very sharply struck and fully brilliant with just a few very light marks. There is a tiny planchet lamination on the reverse rim above the second S in STATES; the coin certainly would be called a Gem without this lamination. Purchased by JJP for \$1.65, date and source unknown.
- 1405. A pair of Standing Liberty Quarters, including 1917-S, Type I, Extremely Fine; and 1917-D, Type I, Choice Almost Uncirculated. The S Mint coin is a bit dull with a touch of golden toning and no marks of significance. The D Mint coin has been cleaned and now has moderate hairlines, especially noticeable on the reverse; it also has light toning. Two pieces.
- 1406. **1917, Type II. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with virtually a Full Head and a partial wire rim. Lustrous surfaces, some small marks, especially on the figure of Liberty. There is a die break from a star through the eagle's breast. Acquired by JJP for \$4.35, but his notes do not indicate a date of purchase or the name of the seller.
- 1407. A pair of Standing Liberty Quarters, including 1917-D, Type II, Almost Uncirculated, fully brilliant and sharp; and 1917-S, Type II, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous with light golden toning and a number of hair-lines. Two pieces.
- 1408. 1918, Choice Uncirculated, nearly Full Head. A lustrous specimen with speckled tarnish type russet toning. There are a few marks on the leg of Liberty as well as a break in the luster on her knee and thigh. Purchased from a Mr. T. Settle, but I can find no indication of the price paid or the date of purchase.
- 1409. A group of four Philadelphia Mint Standing Liberty Quarters, including 1918, 1920, 1923 and 1924. All the coins grade Almost Uncirculated or Choice Almost Uncirculated. They are mostly brilliant, but with some light golden toning. They all appear to have been lightly cleaned at one time as they are lacking in luster and have light hairlines; however, none of them has serious marks or problems. Four pieces.

- 1410. **1918-D**, **Uncirculated**. Sharply struck with a partial head. A few of the rivets in the shield are weak and the tops of the numerals in the date are also weak. Luster is decent, but not great, and the coin has a few light hairlines as well as a touch of light golden toning. Purchased from Mr. T. Settle for \$9.
- 1411. 1918-S, Uncirculated. Fully lustrous; average strike with very little head detail showing. Fully brilliant with no toning whatsoever; there is a small planchet imperfection on the face. This piece was also purchased from Mr. T. Settle for \$6.
- 1412. **1919, Choice Uncirculated,** nearly Full Head. Sharply struck with a touch of light golden toning. There is a break in the luster on the leg, but not many marks. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery on 2/21/47 for \$15.
- 1413. 1919-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Weakly struck with a nearly flat head. The date is very weak, especially at the bottoms of the numerals. There is just a trace of pale golden toning and there are breaks in the luster all down the leg of Liberty. This is one of a relative few Standing Liberty Quarters that is rare, desirable and of significant value in grades below full mint state. Purchased from Mr. T. Settle for \$12, date of purchase unknown.
- 1414. 1919-S, Extremely Fine. Very pale golden toning over somewhat lackluster surfaces. Numerous light bagmarks and hairlines. Like the 1919-D in the previous lot, this issue is one of a relative few Standing Liberty Quarters that is desirable and valuable in circulated condition.
- 1415. A pair of Standing Liberty Quarters, including 1920-D, Almost Uncirculated, probably cleaned, not much luster, light golden toning and some minor hairlines and marks; and 1920-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated, moderate luster, pale gold toning, a noticeable hairline scratch under the eagle on the reverse. Two pieces.
- 1416. 1921, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly Full Head. Mostly brilliant with just a trace of light golden toning. Obverse clash marks near the shoulder and olive branch. Not many marks, just a few breaks in the luster along Liberty's leg. This is another of the relatively few issues in the Standing Liberty Quarter series that is valuable and desirable in grades below full mint state.
- 1417. 1923, Choice Uncirculated, possibly even finer. The head is approximately half full. Attractive medium toning in shades of reddish-gold, violet and greenish-gold. There are also traces of tarnish type toning in recessed areas of the design. Surfaces of the coin are fairly clean. Purchased from a Mr. Cage.
- 1418. **1923, Choice Uncirculated.** A few more marks than the preceding lot, but rather similar in overall appearance. This piece has slightly more tarnish, however, and it also has a nick on the knee. Also purchased from Mr. Cage.

BORDERLINE GEM 1923-S QUARTER





- 1419. 1923-S, Very Choice Uncirculated, nearly in the Gem category. Virtually Full Head. A sharply struck, highly lustrous specimen with just a trace of golden toning. The surfaces are very clean except for two small nicks on the eagle's left wing and a mark on Liberty's lower left leg. This issue is scarce and desirable in any condition, even in grades below mint state. At this high level of quality, however, the 1923-S is quite rare and in continual demand because of the many collectors specializing in this beautiful series.
- 1420. **1924-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Partial head. Brilliant and lustrous with a minimum of marks and a trace of light golden toning. Numerous raised die scratches.





- 1421. 1924-S, Very Choice Uncirculated. The head is less than half full. A highly lustrous, original specimen with just a hint of pale champagne toning. A tiny die break runs through the tops of the numerals of the date. Heavy die scratches are noted on the obverse at LIB of LIBERTY, the olive branch, around the shield and at TY. There is also evidence of heavy die striations on the reverse. Overall, this is a very attractive example of this scarce date.
- 1422. **1925, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with considerable head detail. A frosty, lustrous specimen with a trace of light golden toning and relatively few marks.
- 1423. **1926**, **Very Choice Uncirculated**. The head is slightly over half full. Sharply struck with light golden toning and excellent luster. Well above average eye appeal for the grade.
- 1424. **1926-D, Uncirculated.** The head is less than half full. Light reddish-gold toning and very good luster. There are some slide marks down the figure of Liberty. Purchased from French's 2/14/59 sale, Lot 787, for \$5.75.
- 1425. **1926-D**, **Uncirculated**. The head is flat, but the coin has excellent luster and light natural golden toning.

- 1426. 1926-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated. The head is flat. Light reddish-gold toning and good luster. There are many slide marks on the figure of Liberty.
- 1427. **1927**, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, virtually mint state. The head is less than half full. Lustrous surfaces with light golden toning. There is just a touch of friction on Liberty's leg.
- 1428. 1927-D, Uncirculated. Lustrous with light golden toning; a few minor marks on the leg as well as several in the left obverse field.





- 1429. **1927-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** with the overall look of a mint state coin. Very little, if any, head detail shows, but the coin has good luster, light reddish-gold toning and only a few scattered tiny marks. A very attractive specimen for the grade, in fact, more appealing than some mint state specimens I have seen. This is the third most valuable and desirable Standing Liberty Quarter in grades below mint state after the 1916 and the 1918/7-S.
- 1430. **1928**, **Very Choice Uncirculated.** The head is nearly full. Lustrous surfaces with light golden toning and a minimum of marks. A very flashy coin with an excellent overall appearance.
- 1431. 1928-D, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Full mint luster and brilliance with just a touch of golden toning. Light to moderate contact marks in the fields and on the devices.
- 1432. **1928-S, Very Choice Uncirculated.** The head is more than half full. Very sharply struck with beautiful light reddishgold color.
- 1433. **1929**, **Uncirculated**. The head is more than half full. A lustrous specimen with minimal marks and light golden toning.
- 1434. 1929-D, Uncirculated. Very little head detail. Light golden toning covers highly lustrous surfaces. There are just a few trivial bagmarks on the coin as well as a break in the luster down the leg.
- 1435. 1929-S, Uncirculated. The head is approximately half full. Lustrous with light golden toning and a long scratch in the left reverse field extending across the eagle's tail feathers.
- 1436. **1930, Choice Uncirculated,** nearly Full Head. A frosty, lustrous, sharply struck specimen with light golden toning and only a few minor marks, mostly on the leg of Liberty.





1437. **1930-S, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Nearly Full Head. A super frosty specimen with lustrous light golden toning and only a few minor contact marks on the reverse.

1438. A trio of Washington Quarters, including the following issues: 1932, Uncirculated. Lustrous with nice original toning. Purchased for \$3 in 12/67; 1934, Light Motto, Type I. Gem Uncirculated. A nearly flawless specimen with superb luster and beautiful reddish-gold and bluegreen toning. Purchased for \$2.10; and 1934, Medium Motto, Type II. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Light toning, large gouge on eagle's left leg. Purchased for \$1.20. Three pieces.

U.S. HALF DOLLARS





1439. **1794, Overton 101a. Rarity-4. Fine to Very Fine.** Well centered with all of the denticles clearly defined except those on the obverse by stars 12-14. Cleaned a long time ago, now with medium multicolored toning. There are a number of light marks consistent with the grade, and there is one old scratch running from the A in STATES to the eagle's neck.

There is also a dark area between I and T of UNITED. A die crack runs from between two denticles to the left of the first S in STATES to the leaf below S. This is the first year of the Half Dollar denomination and all 1794 Half Dollars are very scarce no matter what the grade. Purchased by JJP from French's 5/14/55 sale, Lot 545, for \$42.



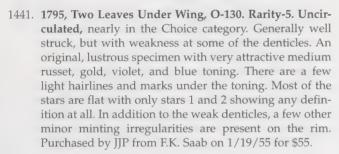


1440. 1795, Two Leaves Below Wing, O-116. Rarity-5. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. UNITED incused under LIBERTY on the obverse, and denticles incused on the reverse between UNITED and the rim. There are also portions of the reverse wreath visible on the reverse rim above STATES OF. This specimen has been harshly cleaned and now has irregular greenish-gold toning. There are heavy adjustment marks running diagonally from between the 6th and 7th stars across Liberty's hair to the eye; some other light adjustment marks appear at the rim. There also appears to be a portion of the design on the obverse rim below the

date and between stars 6 and 7. Although this coin certainly has some quality problems due to the cleaning, it is a particularly interesting coin due to the many striking anomalies. Just as a variety, this is quite rare, and according to the most recent edition of Overton's *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties*, edited by Don Parsley, this piece would fall in the Condition Census if it were not for the cleaning. It would be interesting to know where JJP acquired this piece but, despite extensive searching, I have not been able to locate any pedigree data.

BEAUTIFUL UNCIRCULATED 1795 HALF DOLLAR







This is a wonderful coin, undoubtedly the finest known of the variety since the Third Edition of Overton indicates that the highest graded coin in the Condition Census is only EF-40. JJP's Half Dollars have never been attributed before, but now, thanks to Stuart Levine and Sheridan Downey, they have been and a number of them will take their places in the Condition Census of their respective varieties. Even as a type coin, this coin would be memorable and highly desirable, but as the finest known example of a very scarce variety, it ranks as one of the most important early Half Dollars in the John Jay Pittman Collection.





1442. 1801, Large, Close Date, O-101. Rarity-3. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck and well centered. Probably cleaned at one time, now a medium gold, blue and violet color. Numerous light marks and hairlines in the fields, but nothing that is inconsistent with the grade. There are several large reverse die lumps, including one below the eagle's wing, another at the arrowheads, and yet another between ER of AMERICA. There is another die lump on the rim in the denticles below the arrow feathers. There are also small patches of die rust at various places on the reverse. This is the first year of the new Heraldic Eagle reverse Bust Half Dollar. Nearly all known specimens of this date are this grade or lower and examples that grade fully Extremely Fine are very rare. This coin was purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27-28/47, Lot 1434, for \$20.50.





1443. 1802, O-101. Rarity-3. Extremely Fine. Large, high date, the only variety of the year. Sharply struck and well centered. Light to medium multicolored toning with reddishgold centers and deeper blue and violet at the borders. There are light to heavy reverse adjustment marks running from lower left to upper right. The reverse also has a number of old digs in the lower left reverse field near the U in UNITED, the shield and the arrows. As a date, the 1802 is very similar in rarity to the 1801 and nearly all known specimens grade Very Fine or less. High grade circulated specimens are rare and, for both dates, Uncirculated examples are all but unobtainable. This piece was purchased from the same sale as the 1801; it was Lot 1435 and realized \$15.75.





1444. 1803, Large 3, O-103. Rarity-3. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck and well centered; weak only at the border on the obverse. Medium toning with light reddish-gold centers and deeper blue and violet at the borders. Clash marks are visible at Liberty's ear from the horizontal lines of the shield. There are some light marks and a few hairlines on the surfaces, but most are barely visible due to the toning. There is one dig on Liberty's face just to the right of her earlobe. As a date, the 1803 is not in the same rarity class as the 1801 and 1802, but it is still very scarce, if not rare, in grades above Very Fine. Once again, mint state examples are extremely rare and almost never available. This specimen is sufficiently choice that it may have barely nudged its way into the Condition Census for the variety; if not, it is certainly just outside of it. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 102nd sale, 7/31/48, Lot 191, for \$9.50.





1448. 1806, Round Top or Knobbed 6, O-105. Rarity-2. Fine. Counterstamped "Houck's/Panacea/Baltimore" in three lines in a rectangular stamp in front of Liberty's face. Medium multicolored toning; the T in LIBERTY is prominently recut. The counterstamp is very bold and deeply impressed. Of course, because of this counterstamp, the reverse is significantly affected in the area between the eagle's right wing and AMERICA. Purchased by JJP for \$6.55, source unknown.

The "Houck's Panacea" counterstamp is seen most often on Half Dollars of the Capped Bust type. Other denominations, as well as Half Dollars of this Draped Bust type, are very rare and only a few such specimens are known. It is possible that this example is unique for the date, i.e. it is the only 1806 Half Dollar with the "Houck's Panacea Baltimore" counterstamp; at the very least, it is one of only two or three known specimens. JJP dearly loved coins like this. It is a coin with a story behind it and it was always the story that piqued JJP's interest the most.





- 1445. 1805/4, O-101. Rarity-3. Fine to Very Fine. (Actually, the obverse of this coin is a full Very Fine while the reverse is Fine, so perhaps a split grade more accurately describes the piece.) Probably cleaned at one point, now with medium multicolored violet, blue, greenish-gold, and reddish-gold toning, somewhat lighter in the centers than near the peripheries. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's Menjou Collection sale, 6/50, Lot 949, for \$9.50.
- 1446. 1805, O-106. Rarity-3. Fine. Cleaned, now with medium multicolored toning. Numerous light marks and hairlines consistent with the rather low grade. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27-28/47, Lot 1437, for \$5.
- 1447. 1806/5, O-103a. Rarity-2. Very Good. Flat stars, all drawn to the rim. No denticles on either the obverse or the reverse, a characteristic of this variety. Medium gray and gold color. Die crack from the rim between ST to the second cloud from the left. A die crack on the obverse runs from the rim through the two lowest points of the first star. This coin was purchased from a Mr. Slater, 3/19/55, for \$2.

UNCIRCULATED 1806 HALF DOLLAR



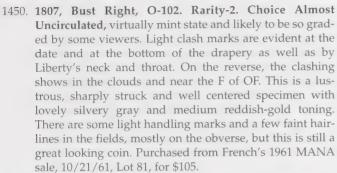


1449. 1806, Pointed Top 6, No Stem Through Claw, O-109. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Sharply struck and perfectly centered. Very attractive medium multicolored iridescent toning, a rich blend of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few very minor hairlines and contact marks well hidden by the toning. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1051, for \$8.25. Bluestone's catalogue descriptions were notably terse, but he did note that this coin was, "A beautiful coin (with) considerable mint luster".

This is a common variety of perhaps the most common date of the type. Nevertheless, the vast majority of known examples are circulated, and mint state specimens such as this one are certainly very rare and desirable. The magnificent Eliasberg coin was undoubtedly the finest known example of this variety, and a few other Very Choice to Gem Uncirculated examples exist as well. This specimen, while not quite in the Condition Census, is perhaps just outside of it and thus ranks among the finer known examples of the date.







This is not an especially rare variety, but high grade specimens are very rare as evidenced by the Condition Census (listed in the Third Edition of Overton, edited by Don Parsley) of 55, 55, 50, 45, and 40. This specimen is a higher grade than any of those listed and thus, if no superior specimen has appeared since the publication of that edition, it may be the case that this is the finest known example of the variety. As such, it is of considerable importance to the many Bust Half Dollar collectors.





1451. 1807, Bust Right, O-105. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with full prooflike surfaces. This is the kind of coin that has been called "Semi-Proof" or even "Proof" in the past. The strike is very slightly off toward the lower right on the obverse, but the reverse is nicely centered. The obverse is a light golden color while the reverse has slightly darker shades of gold with violet highlights. This is a very flashy, impressive looking coin with just a few light handling marks and hairlines in the fields. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 101st sale, 5/29/48, Lot 261, where Bluestone described it as a, "Beautiful semi-proof. Equal to a proof. One of the best I have seen in years. A rarity in this condition." Bluestone even boxed and featured this lot in his catalogue (as B. Max Mehl often did in his sales of the period, but Bluestone hardly ever did), so he must have been very impressed with this piece. JJP paid \$18 for the lot or just over half of Bluestone's \$35 estimate; obviously, JJP must have been greatly pleased, not only with the coin, but with the price he ultimately had to pay.





1452. 1807, Capped Bust Type, Bust Left, 50/20 Reverse, O-112. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Weak on the eagle's left wing, very sharp elsewhere. Beautiful toning with light gold centers and deeper iridescent blue, russet and greenish-gold toning about the periphery. The coin has excellent luster and is marred only by a few slide marks on the face and some random hairlines and marks in the fields. Overall, this is a most attractive specimen due largely to the pretty toning. Purchased from a Wayte Raymond sale in the 1940's as Lot 617 for \$14.25.

This is the first year of issue of the new Capped Bust or Turban Head Half Dollar design. Mint state examples of all varieties of 1807 are quite scarce and underrated, although some high quality examples of this variety do exist as evidenced by the Condition Census which consists mostly of Gem quality examples. This variety represents a very interesting error in that the engraver first erroneously punched a 2 in the position where the 5 in the denomination belongs, either from just picking up the wrong numeral punch or perhaps thinking he was preparing a die for a Quarter. This is the only Half Dollar with such a denomination error, but a similar situation occurs in the Bust Quarter series with the 25/50 reverse error varieties of 1822 and 1828.

1453. 1807, Bust Left, O-113. Rarity-2. Extremely Fine. Small obverse stars, C distant from 50 on the reverse. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time, now with dark bluegray and reddish-gold toning covering rather lackluster surfaces. There are a number of hairlines under the toning, but not many marks. Purchased from Jim Charlton on 8/20/52 for \$10.

ATTRACTIVE MINT STATE 1808 HALF DOLLAR

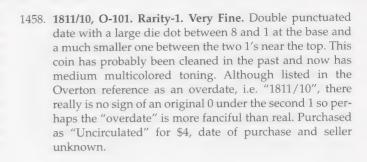




1454. 1808, O-103. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Weak at the borders with very little denticle detail showing (none on the reverse); also weak on the bust of Liberty at the shoulder clasp and the hair around the neck and shoulder. Stars at the left are all flat except the 1st, and all of the stars are drawn to the border as are the letters in the reverse legend. Despite the striking characteristics just described, this coin

has an excellent overall appearance and would actually grade higher than minimal Uncirculated if it were not for a few light scratches on the face; the fields on both sides are quite clean. This coin has great luster, color and eye appeal. The toning is a light reddish-gold with blue and greenish-gold at the borders. The fields on both sides of the coin are quite clean. The 8's in the date are very strange looking; they are tall, drawn and misshapen. Although not as rare as the 1807, the 1808 is another issue that is difficult to find in mint state. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 89th sale, 9/29/45, Lot 225, for \$6.

1455. 1809, O-105. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Well struck for an 1809 Half Dollar. There is only a little weakness in the hair at the back of Liberty's neck and on the eagle's left wing. The medium multicolored toning is beautiful and natural and there is great luster under the toning; there is also just a touch of friction and wear, as well as a few minor contact marks and hairlines. A long die break runs through the three lowest leaf pairs on the olive branch, then through UNITED STATES OF A; a die scratch or break runs from the leaf closest to the 5 in the denomination to the rim. For an AU coin, this is a "gem". Purchased from Wayte Raymond in 1945 for \$1.50.



1459. 1811, Large 8, O-103a. Rarity-3. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. A vertical die crack runs through the left side of the first 1 in the date to the bust, clasp and hair curl. Heavy clash marks on both sides, especially on the obverse in front of the face by stars 6 and 7. This specimen is very attractive with medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning with hints of violet and greenish-gold. The fields are very clean and the coin has just a trace of rubbing on the high points; many will probably grade this coin AU or better. JJP purchased it as "Unc." for \$2 in the 1940's





- 1456. 1810, O-102a. Rarity-2. Uncirculated. Fully brilliant with outstanding luster. The stars are sharp, but the eagle's left wing is very flat and the chin and neckline of Miss Liberty are weak. These are all characteristic of the variety. There is a small depression in the planchet at the 5th star due to something adhering to the obverse die; another depression is on the throat. The coin has numerous die breaks, including breaks through the bottom of the date toward the stars on either side, through the denomination at the base, and through the tops of the letters in UNITED and STATES. Purchased from Aubrey Bebee, 2/10/62, for \$50.
- 1457. 1810, O-107. Rarity-3. Extremely Fine. Well struck for an 1810 Half Dollar, although stars 4-7 are flat. Attractive peripheral toning (from spending years in a Wayte Raymond holder) with medium shades of violet, blue and greenish-gold. The centers are pale gold. The denticles are weak at the upper left obverse and also on much of the reverse. There is a fairly prominent planchet irregularity at the rim on the reverse below the olive leaves. Extensive die cracks appear on the reverse that match the description of variety 107a in the Don Parsley update of the Overton reference. On this specimen, however, the recutting at the base of the C is still visible.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED 1811 HALF DOLLAR





1460. 1811, Small 8, O-110a. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. Sharply struck and perfectly centered, although several stars at the left are flat. This is a gorgeous original coin with outstanding luster and color that is mostly medium reddish-gold with bluegreen, violet and greenish-gold highlights. There are a couple of light hairline scratches on the obverse including one in the field between the chin and the 2nd star; another is on the neck. In both cases, the scratches are now completely toned over. On the reverse, a thin die crack runs from below the olive leaves through UNITED to the denticles above the first S in STATES. This is a common date and variety, but the condition and toning are certainly noteworthy. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's 50th Anniversary sale, 5/23/50, as Lot 1025 for \$10. Although the 50th Anniversary sale featured the Jerome Kern Collection, this coin and other important Half Dollars in the sale were from the A.P. Weitzel Collection.





1461. 1812, O-109a. Rarity-2. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Weak or indistinct denticles on both sides, but very sharply struck on Liberty and the eagle. Beautiful medium multicolored toning with russet in the centers and blue-green at the borders. A few trivial carbon streaks on the obverse, but minimal hairlines or contact marks. Although not as lustrous or attractively toned as the 1811 in the preceding lot, this 1812 actually has fewer marks. On the reverse, there are die defects around the left wing which serve to identify the variety. Purchased from Wayte Raymond on 5/14/46 for \$3.50.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1813 HALF DOLLAR





1462. 1813, O-107a. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Struck from shattered obverse and reverse dies. Beautiful multicolored toning, mostly light to medium reddish-gold with blue and green highlights. Under the toning, the surfaces are very clean and have excellent luster. Struck slightly off-center to the lower left on the obverse and to the upper left on the reverse. Weak on the head of the eagle and the top of its left wing, but very sharp elsewhere. Purchased from George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45, Lot 507, for \$3.50.

As a date, the 1813 is much more rare than the 1811 and 1812, especially in mint state, and 1813 Half Dollars in grades above Choice Uncirculated are very scarce, if not actually rare. Qualitywise, this example is much nicer than any of the four varieties of 1813 Half Dollars in the magnificent Eliasberg Collection. It is also a different variety from any of those four.

MAGNIFICENT 1814 HALF DOLLAR





1463. 1814, O-102. Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated. This is a fabulous looking coin with superb medium multicolored toning, a blend of autumn leaves shades of russet, greenish-gold, violet and blue-green. The denticles on both sides are missing or weak. The coin is very sharply struck with full details on the bust of Liberty and the eagle. The dies had obviously become heavily rusted by the time this coin was struck as rust spots are evident throughout Liberty's hair curls and drapery. The surfaces of the coin are very clean, virtually free of hairlines, marks or any impairments, and the luster beneath the gorgeous toning is outstanding. This is a superb quality coin and falls at or near the top of the Condition Census for the variety as delineated in the latest edition of the Overton reference. In particular, this specimen is far superior in all respects to the Eliasberg coin sold as Lot 1729 in April 1997. This coin was purchased by JJP for \$3; most likely it was Lot 1469 in Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47.





- 1464. 1815, O-101. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck and well centered; all of the stars have their full radial lines. The coin has light to medium reddish-gold toning in the centers on both sides turning to deeper violet and blue at the borders. There are some light hairlines and contact marks as well as several noticeable scratches, the most prominent of which run across the lower part of the bust. This coin was probably cleaned at one time and now has relatively little luster, but it is actually quite close to Uncirculated in terms of actual wear. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1471, for \$20.50.
- 1465. 1817/3, O-101a. Rarity-2. Good to Very Good. Cleaned and well worn, now with dull gray and reddish-gold color. Very weak on the eagle's head and left wing. The tops of some of the reverse letters are drawn to the rim. There are scratches in the obverse field by the first three stars. This is a very popular overdate with the 3 still clearly visible under the 7 even on a very low grade specimen like this.
- 1466. 1817, O-112. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Vivid peripheral toning on the obverse with deep shades of blue-green, violet and russet. The center of the obverse is a light reddish-gold color. The reverse is toned a medium reddish-gold with blue highlights at the border. There are a few faint scratches in the field in front of the neck and an area of discoloration on the cheek. The fields are relatively clean, but there is an abrasion at the C of the denomination. The stars at the left are all very sharp; the stars at the right, however, are all flat.





1467. 1817, O-112a. Rarity-2. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Frosty and original with beautiful light toning. The colors are reddish-gold in the centers and iridescent blue, green and gold at the borders. Under the toning, the surfaces are highly lustrous and have very few marks, certainly none of significance. The coin is well struck with all denticles visible, although some are larger than others. All of the stars at the left are sharp and have central details; half of them at the right are also sharp, the others somewhat weak. Heavy clash marks are noted on both sides. A

- die crack runs through the olive leaves and the tops of the letters in UNITED ending at ST in STATES. This piece is possibly in the Condition Census for the variety. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1473, for \$6.50. Bluestone was obviously impressed with this coin since he graded and described it, "Unc. Brill. Gem. One of the most beautiful specimens I have seen of this date."
- 1468. 1818/7, O-103. Rarity-3. Extremely Fine. The first 8 in the date is much larger than the second. Well struck; light to medium reddish-gold color highlighted with a touch of multicolored iridescence. There is a patch of roughness on the face and some light hairlines and marks in the fields. Very clear overdate with the "horns" of the 7 visible above the top of the 8. Stars 4-13 are all drawn to the rim. Purchased by JJP for \$5, date of purchase and seller unknown.
- 1469. 1819/8, Small 9, O-101. Rarity-1. Extremely Fine. Clear overdate. Repunching evident on the first 8, but nothing on either 1 in the date. Medium reddish-gold color with darker shades of violet and blue at the borders. Numerous light hairlines and marks, probably cleaned at one time. Purchased from L. Babin in 1952 for \$3.50.
- 1470. **1819, O-113. Rarity-1. Extremely Fine.** Wide date. Attractive reddish-gold toning and very nice luster for an EF coin. There are also traces of iridescent blue and green shades in the toning. Some light hairlines and marks are noted in the fields, including a little flurry of hairlines above the eagle's head.
- 1471. 1820/19, O-102. Rarity-1. Extremely Fine. Well struck and nicely centered. Medium multicolored toning, an attractive iridescent blend of russet, greenish-gold, violet and blue. Some light marks and hairlines are visible, but none is really serious; there is also some reddish corrosion at the bottom of the reverse at the olive branch and 5 of the denomination.





1472. 1820, Small Date, O-103a. Rarity-2. Uncirculated. This is a beautiful, original specimen with very lustrous surfaces, a sharp strike, excellent centering, and lovely medium russet toning with iridescent blue-green at the rims. The reverse is especially attractive and grades Choice Uncirculated or better. The fields on both sides are quite clean, but there are a few minor marks and pinpoint spots on the face and hair. All of the stars are very sharp, some drawn to the rim. A die break runs from the rim by star 11 past the bottom curl to the top of the 1. The eye appeal of this coin is very good, especially the reverse which has excellent luster and color. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1486, for \$5.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1820 HALF DOLLAR

O-108 Variety





1473. 1820, O-108. Rarity-2 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. Choice Proof. Close, large date. Very sharply struck except for a weakness at the top of 50 and on the lowest arrow feather and stem of the olive branch due to heavy lapping of the dies. Deep mirror fields and lightly frosted devices. The mirror fields extend from rim to rim, even between some of the denticles, and there is no trace of mint frost anywhere in the fields. Every star is bold with all of its radial lines; the 5th star is recut. Die guidelines are present at the denticles by stars 6 and 7. There are a few very light hairlines in the fields, but no marks, scratches, or nicks. There is a trace of die rust in the left obverse field and also a small area of carbon streaking (what British numismatists call "haymarking") in the reverse field below the eagle's left wing; there are also some tiny depressions or planchet chips in the reverse field, "as made". There is a very small abrasion that is barely noticeable on Liberty's neck as well as a small mark on the edge at the 1st star. The coin is fully brilliant except for beautiful russet peripheral toning highlighted with a few patches of blue green. This is an outstanding quality coin for such an early Proof and it is the first specimen in a remarkable group of Proof Bust Half Dollars in the John Jay Pittman Collection, a selection the likes of which has not been seen in any auction in decades. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/18/61, Lot 2748, where it realized \$180.

This coin was part of the Gustav Lichtenfels collection of Half Dollars which contained many great rarities, especially in the area of Proofs. It is believed that this specimen was formerly in the collection of the famous Chicago collector, Virgil Brand.

All Capped Bust or Turban Head Half Dollars of the type issued from 1807 to 1836 are exceedingly rare in Proof with no more than a few pieces of any date known. The first year for which Proofs are known is 1818, although Proofs of several earlier years have also been claimed that are less convincing. Of this particular year, 1820, as many as six specimens are claimed to exist, including one each of the O-103, O-105, and O-106 varieties as well as three Proofs of this variety, O-108. The examples of O-103 and O-105 appeared in the Richard Winsor sale of 1895 and have not been examined recently enough by a numismatic expert to determine whether or not they are really Proofs as we use that term today. The example of O-106 that was catalogued as a Proof in the Eliasberg Collection was convincing as a Proof to some, but not to others (including me). This leaves the three examples of O-108, and it is possible that with each of these pieces there will be some controversy as to its original minting status because, on such early Proofs, even experts will often disagree. Following are the three known examples of the 1820 Half Dollar in Proof, all of them the O-108 variety.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2748; Virgil Brand.
- 2. New Netherlands 47th sale (T.J. Clarke): 1245; Charles H. Deetz II: 1189.
- 3. Empire: 1308; R.T. McPherson: 843; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 753; S.H. Chapman.
- 1474. 1820, O-108. Rarity-2. Very Fine. Close, large date. Probably cleaned at one time; now with irregular toning, mostly light reddish-gold color with blue-green shades at the border. Recut 5th star and leaves on olive branch.

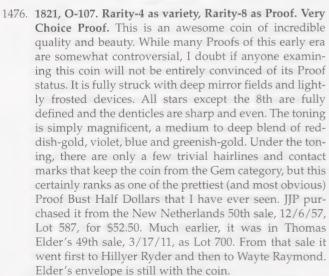




1475. **1821, O-106.** Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck and well centered. Most stars are well defined, but several are flat. Very good luster underlies attractive russet and greenish-gold toning that is highlighted with a touch of violet. The fields and devices are very clean with only a few minor hairlines and handling marks. The toning is rather light on the reverse, medium on the obverse. Purchased from George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45, Lot 517, for \$2.85.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1821 HALF DOLLAR





The 1821 Half Dollar in Proof is similar in rarity to the 1820, perhaps just a little less rare if one or two additional examples that have been called Proofs actually turn out to be the real thing. At present, however, I can account for only the following three Proof 1821 Half Dollars.



- 1. **John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;** New Netherlands 50th sale: 587; Wayte Raymond; Hillyer Ryder; T. Elder's 49th sale: 700. O-107.
- 2. Gustav Lichtenfels I: 2754. Unattributed and, unfortunately, not photographed in the catalogue. Variety unknown, but a legitimate Proof according to JJP who purchased a number of Proofs from the Lichtenfels Collection. The high price it realized is also a strong (but not infallible) indicator of its legitimate Proof status.
- 3. Empire: 1312; R.T. McPherson: 844; 1949 ANA sale: 1471; Ohio collector. Variety unknown. JJP was also confident of the Proof status of this third specimen and, once again, the high price it realized in 1957 (and in the earlier sales) would tend to confirm his opinion.

A small number of additional 1821 Half Dollars have been described as Proofs in the past, but have generally turned out to be prooflike business strikes. Of course, it is always possible that a few other Proofs exist. For example, the Cleneay specimen appears to be a true Proof from the photograph and is not accounted for in the above listing. Norweb: 3075 was also catalogued as a Proof of the O-107 variety, but it was a controversial coin; some people felt it to be a true Proof while others, including myself, did not. The Norweb example is obviously not the same coin as the Pittman specimen, but it could possibly be one of the other two I have listed, although it is not possible to make a photographic match since numbers 2 and 3 above were not photographed in their respective catalogues.

BORDERLINE GEM 1822 HALF DOLLAR

One Of The Finest Known Specimens Of The O-101 Variety





1477. 1822, O-101. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually Gem quality and likely to be so graded by most. This variety is supposedly an "overdate"; it has long been considered to be "1822/1" and is so listed in the latest edition of the Overton reference, Breen's Encyclopedia, and the standard pricing guides. However, this issue's overdate status is highly questionable. Regardless of whether or not the variety is a true overdate, this coin is an outstanding example of the variety with a full strike, radiant mint luster and beautiful light reddish-gold toning with shades of blue at the rim along with a trace of

violet. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few tiny marks in the fields as well as several on the face and neck. Denticles are rather weak in places, but the coin is very sharply struck on the central devices. The stars are a mixed bag of sharp and rather flat. A thin die break joins the 50 in the denomination and the three lower leaf pairs of the olive branch. In the date, the second 2 is much "heavier" than the first. This specimen is undoubtedly in the Condition Census for the variety. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27-28/47, Lot 1494, for \$3.60.

1478. 1822, O-110a. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck with well formed denticles and very sharp stars. Medium golden toning covers moderately lustrous surfaces that have relatively few marks and hairlines. There is just a trace of friction on the cheek, neck, bust and drapery. A prominent die crack is seen at the left touching all seven stars except the 3rd. There is also a thin hairline die crack on the reverse through ATES OF.

Viewing of Lots

- 1. Lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be available for viewing in Salons A, B, and C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor from Saturday, May 16, 1998, through Thursday, May 21, 1998, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:30 P.M. daily.
- 2. Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from April 27, 1998, through May 12, 1998 (excluding weekends), by appointment only.

CHOICE PROOF 1822 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Possibly Only 2 Specimens Known





1479. 1822, O-114. Rarity-3 as variety, possibly Unique as Proof. Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. This is an incredible coin whose Proof status will not be in doubt to anyone who examines it. The strike is remarkable, as sharp as I have ever seen on a Half Dollar of this type. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the surfaces of the coin are toned a gorgeous deep blue and gray color with russet around the stars, date and devices. There are some light hairlines under the toning, but no marks of any kind. A die break encircles the entire reverse running through the letters of the legend, the arrowheads and the denomination. Only ES OF is not affected by this hairline die break since the break ends just above the E at the left and just above the F at the right. The inside right serifs of all the A's in the legend are missing. Purchased from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale conducted by B. Max Mehl, 3/23/48, Lot 780, where it realized \$52.50.

In Proof, the 1822 Half Dollar is comparable to the 1820 and 1821 and most of the other dates of this decade that exist in Proof. Although other examples have been listed as Proofs in various auctions in the past, none of them was as convincing as the following two specimens, which, in fact, may be the only two Proof 1822 Half Dollars known. Of course, it is always possible that one or more additional examples exist that are not listed here.

1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 780. O-114.

2. Norweb: 3077; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2755; Thomas Cleneay: 1152. O-103. Although Breen notes in his Proof Encyclopedia that, "The Cleneay plate is not clear enough to tell if these two are the same coin", it is really very obvious from a comparison of the photographs of the Cleneay specimen and the Norweb example that they are the same coin.

The Eliasberg specimen of this variety (Lot 1790) was the same die state as this example and was described as a Proof in the Eliasberg sale catalogue. However, it had very little mirror surface and looked nothing at all like this Pittman specimen, and I did not feel that it was a true Proof, although others may disagree with me. For those who feel that it is a Proof, it would be a third specimen, but I still believe that the two specimens listed above are the only two known Proof 1822 Half Dollars. I have seen several other 1822 Half Dollars of other varieties that were described as Proofs, but in my opinion they were prooflike business strikes rather than true Proofs. As this specimen clearly shows, the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia definitely knew how to make Proofs in 1822, and both this coin and the Norweb Proof are equal in terms of their minting quality to Proofs struck decades later. That is not to say that all Proofs of the 1820's must match these two coins to qualify as Proofs; after all, striking differences can and did occur between varieties and dates, even between two Proof examples of the same date and variety. However, the point I would like to make here is that, in the past, many coins were called Proofs when they were really prooflike business strikes, and that has served to inflate the apparent population of Proofs of this period. Actually, they are much more rare than the literature and past auction records would seem to indicate, and no more than a very few Proof examples exist of any given date Bust Half Dollar.

BORDERLINE GEM 1823 HALF DOLLAR



1480. 1823, Normal 3, O-103. Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated, a virtual Gem. This is a beautiful, original coin with gorgeous toning featuring warm sunset shades of reddish-gold and blue-green with a touch of violet at the borders. The coin is very sharply struck on Miss Liberty and the eagle. Some stars are flat, others well defined. All of the denticles on the obverse are clear, but they are indistinct or missing entirely on portions of the reverse. The fields and devices of the coin are very clean with only a couple of very minor marks and hairlines, and the color and eye appeal of the coin are so superb that it is likely that many, if not most, will grade this a full Gem. Purchased from George Bauer in 1945 for \$3.25.



1481. 1824/1, O-101a. Rarity-2. Choice Almost Uncirculated, fully prooflike. Purchased by JJP as a Proof in 1961 but, in my opinion, the coin is not a true Proof, but rather a highly prooflike business strike. The coin is generally well struck, although there is a little weakness on the hair curls at Liberty's neck and on the shoulder clasp. The stars at the left, while not flat, are not as fully struck up as those at the right. Most of the stars are drawn to the rim. The fields are highly mirrorlike and have numerous hairlines; there is also a long fine scratch across the head at Liberty's eye level. Some well scattered, minor marks are also present on the surfaces of the coin. The numeral 1 that was incorrectly punched in place of the 4 is still visible at the top of the 4 and on each side of it. This is a very flashy coin and certainly the kind that has often been called Proof in the past. In fact, this very specimen is listed in Breen's Proof Encyclopedia as the second of two known Proofs of this date. JJP purchased this coin from the Kreisberg-Schulman "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/21-24/62, Lot 1151, for \$115. Previously, it had been offered as Lot 2760 in the Lichtenfels sale in February 1961.

It is highly questionable whether or not an 1824 Half Dollar exists in Proof. Of Breen's two allegedly known specimens, both are doubtful. This example, the Lichtenfels specimen, does not qualify as a Proof, in my opinion, and the other one listed in Breen, the Empire Collection coin. does not sound like a true Proof from its description, although admittedly I have not examined the coin to be certain. However, let me state again that the U.S. Mint knew how to make Proofs in the 1820's and so coins that are described as Proofs, then noted as being poorly struck, improperly made, mishandled, impaired, or any other qualifying terms, are at least suspect and need to be examined very closely. Of course, it is certainly not the case that all true Proofs were fully struck or perfectly mirrorlike, but with all the coins that are obvious Proofs, their overall fabric and general appearance are almost always an immediate indicator of their Proof status. JJP's oft-stated comment that, "If you have to deliberate over whether or not a coin is a Proof, then it's not", actually does apply in most (but not all) cases. Just compare this alleged Proof to the 1820, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832, for example, and you will see that it does not match up to any of them with respect to minting and surface quality. Again, I do not believe that any true Proofs of this date exist.

- 1482. 1824, O-105. Rarity-2. Extremely Fine. Attractive, but irregular light to medium multicolored toning. Sharply struck (except for flat stars) and well centered. Some light hairlines in the fields, but no really serious marks.
- 1483. **1825**, **O-102**. **Rarity-1**. **Almost Uncirculated.** Well struck, nicely centered. Light irregular toning with shades of reddish-gold and greenish-gold. Not many marks or hairlines, but not much luster either.

VERY SCARCE VARIETY 1825 HALF DOLLAR

O-109 Variety, Double Profile





1484. **1825, O-109. Rarity-5. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck, distinctly doubled profile. Light toning on the obverse with pale reddish-gold in the center turning to deeper blue-green and violet at the border. The reverse is fully mint state with very attractive medium multicolored toning; its colors are similar to those on the obverse, just deeper shades of them. Most stars are sharp and well defined and all are drawn to the border, as are many of the letters in the reverse legend. There are a few marks on the face of Liberty, but the fields are almost mark-free. There are, however, also some light hairlines present in the fields. A very scarce variety. Purchased from a Walter Webb sale, 4/8/44, Lot 74, for \$2.50.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1826 HALF DOLLAR

The Lichtenfels-Friedman-Col. Green-Cleneay Specimen





1485. 1826, O-101. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. Choice Proof. Fully struck with every detail on the head of Liberty and every star sharp and boldly defined. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and are mostly brilliant with a touch of light russet toning at the rims. A tiny die break runs through the bases of the numerals of the date. There are raised rust spots on the 6 of the date, and there is also a tiny lump at the lower left foot of the 1. This may be rust or a trace of a misplaced original 1. There are some light hairlines in the fields, but nothing serious, and there is a distinctive diagonal toning streak across the neck and cap. There is a die rust dot by the denticles at the tip of the bust as well as die guide lines at the lower obverse denticles below the date as well as other guide lines at stars 3 and 4, and at stars 6 and 7, extending over the cap. A few raised die file marks are seen in the field below the bust; they run diagonally from the bottom of the drapery into the field to the right.

This is just about the most obvious Proof Bust Half Dollar from the 1820's that one will ever see, similar to the 1822 offered earlier. The coin is as fully struck as possible and every star has all of its radial lines. The border and denticles are a little narrow at the top of the obverse, and they are weak at the lower left on the reverse. Purchased by JJP from Kreisberg-Schulman's 2/18/61 sale of the Gustav Lichtenfels Collection, Lot 2763, for \$320. Earlier, the coin was Lot 786 of the 1946 ANA sale which featured the Adolph Friedman Collection of Half Dollars. It was noted in that catalogue that the coin was from the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection. This coin can be traced further back to the Thomas Cleneay sale of 1890 where it appeared as Lot 1162.

In Walter Breen's Proof Encyclopedia, he notes that only one variety of 1826 was claimed to exist in Proof, namely Overton-102, and he identifies this coin as the third specimen in his listing. However, his attribution is incorrect as this piece is O-101 and not O-102. In his Complete Encyclopedia, published later than the Proof Encyclopedia, he notes that one Proof has been reported of the Overton-101 variety; that piece may be the one that later appeared in Heritage's 1997 ANA sale as Lot 6351, a coin certified by PCGS as Proof 63. As one can see, attributions and pedigrees, and even whether or not a particular coin is actually a Proof, can be very confusing when it comes to the area of early Proof coinage. For this reason, it is very difficult to determine exactly how many Proofs exist of any given issue and which varieties are actually known in Proof. Many early U.S. coins have incorrectly been called Proofs in the past when they were really prooflike business strikes, and perhaps this has happened most often in the Bust Half Dollar series. Based on a thorough research of American auction catalogues well back into the 19th Century, it seems unlikely to me that more than 3 or 4 Proofs of this date are known of the two varieties (O-101 and O-102) combined. For example, a careful reading of the descriptions of the first two examples that Breen lists as Proofs, namely the Empire: 1320 specimen and the New Netherlands 47th sale: 1258 example, would seem to indicate that neither of those coins was a real Proof. Similarly, the fourth example listed by Breen is, at best, a one-sided Proof, and therefore the following three examples may be the only known Proofs of this date.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2763; 1946 ANA sale: 786; Col. E.H.R. Green; Thomas Cleneay: 1162. O-101.
- 2. 1997 ANA sale: 6351. Graded by PCGS as Proof-63. O-101.
- 3. Ruby III: 696; Gilhousen III: 930. O-102. I examined this coin in both of these sales and felt at the time that it was a Proof, as did IIP who looked at the coin with me.

Certainly, one or more other examples may exist, but these seem to be the only three specimens with legitimate claims to being true Proofs.

1486. 1826, O-118a. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually in the mint state category. This is a beautiful, sharply struck specimen that most people will grade Uncirculated. It has lustrous, original surfaces with very nice toning, pale reddish-gold in the centers and deeper blue and

greenish-gold at the borders. There is one sharp nick on the cheek and a few light hairlines in the fields. Excellent eye appeal; in fact, this coin looks mint state, but it is technically, in my opinion, a "slider". JJP purchased this coin from George Bauer in 1945 for \$2.



1487. **1827**, **O-104**. **Rarity-1**. **Uncirculated**. Warm gray and reddish-gold toning. Frosty, sharply struck and well centered. Not especially lustrous, but the fields are very clean with



only a few trivial hairlines and contact marks. There is also one small nick on Liberty's neck. Purchased from George Bauer's sale XVI, 10/13/45, Lot 538, for \$2.50.



1488. 1828, Square Base 2, Large Letters, O-118. Rarity-3. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Counterstamped "Houck's/ Panacea/Baltimore" in three lines in a rectangular counterstamp in front of Liberty's face. Irregular medium russet and blue-green toning. An attractive coin with only a few light hairlines and minor marks, certainly fewer and less obtrusive than one would expect from the grade. Purchased by JJP from Stack's Howard Egolf sale, 5/5-6/61, Lot 1492, for \$27. Jacob Houck was a Baltimore mer-

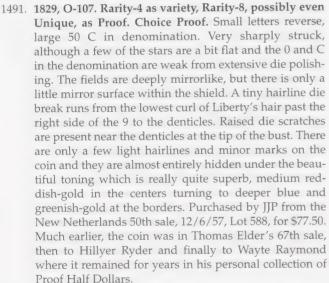


chant who sold his panacea, "Prepared solely from vegetable matter", for \$1.50 per bottle. He regularly counterstamped coins that passed through his establishment, and the majority of the coins so stamped were Half Dollars, the earliest known one dated 1795, the latest 1845. Most coins bearing the "Houck's Panacea" counterstamp are Capped Bust Half Dollars of the late 1820's and early 1830's. All are scarce and desirable, especially when the host coin is as attractive as this one.

- 1489. 1828, O-122. Rarity-3. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Square base 2, small 8's in the date. Medium multicolored toning, reddish-gold centers with darker violet and bluegreen at the borders. Broken die at 5th and 6th stars on the rim, raised die defects near the denticles to the left of the date. The majority of stars are flat, including all of those at the right, but the coin is otherwise very sharp, particularly on the bust of Liberty. The coin does not have a lot of luster, but it has relatively few marks or hairlines. This is a moderately scarce variety of this date.
- 1490. **1829/7, O-101. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** All letters in the date have been repunched and the curved base 2 was punched over a square base 2. This piece is very sharply struck, although some stars are flat; it is also well centered and has very attractive medium multicolored toning, a blend of blue, russet, violet and greenish-gold. There is just a trace of friction on the highest points that keeps this from the mint state category, but there are really very few marks or hairlines.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1829 HALF DOLLAR







A small number of Proof 1829 Half Dollars of various varieties have been reported, but this is the only specimen that reliably can be reported as a Proof of the O-107 variety, although, of course, one or more other examples may exist. This is a date of which some very deceptive prooflike examples exist and, therefore, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine from past catalogue listings which ones were true Proofs and which were not. It does seem possible, however, perhaps even likely, that several different varieties of this date were struck in Proof, although the total number of Proofs known probably still numbers no more than 5 or 6 pieces. (The only ones other than this that I recall seeing were the Auction '80: 1287 - Reed Hawn: 91 specimen, and Norweb: 3095, both different varieties than this one.) It is my opinion that nearly all of the 1829 Half Dollars catalogued as Proofs in the past were really prooflike business strikes and that this date is actually far more rare in Proof than has generally been assumed due to the earlier "false" listings. Still, as a date, the 1829 is somewhat less rare in Proof than most other Bust Half Dollars of the era, although the 1827, 1834 and 1836 are the three most often seen Bust Half Dollar issues in Proof.





1492. 1829, O-108. Rarity-2. Uncirculated. Softly struck on Liberty's shoulder at the clasp and the hair around it. Very sharp elsewhere with most of the stars showing at least some detail. The luster of this piece is outstanding and the surfaces of the coin are enhanced by beautiful medium multicolored iridescent toning, predominantly reddishgold, but also with lovely shades of blue, violet and greenish-gold. The surfaces are very clean with only a few minor marks and hairlines; in fact, the reverse could easily be graded Choice. There is one small edge bruise to the left of the date. The eye appeal of this specimen substantially exceeds its technical grade. Purchased from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/3/44, Lot 533, for \$4.25.



1493. **1830, O-104. Rarity-3. Choice Uncirculated.** Small 0 in date, large 0 in denomination. Frosty and lustrous. Very sharply struck on the central devices; the stars, however, are all flat and drawn to the rim. Mottled, but quite attractive toning with especially vivid blue, russet, violet and gold on the obverse, lighter more conventional toning in the same colors on the reverse. Slight defect on the denticle below the C in the denomination. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with just a few minor hairlines and marks. Purchased from Wayte Raymond on 5/14/46 for \$2.50.

Walter Breen in his Complete Encyclopedia notes that this variety is "Ex. Rare UNC." The Condition Census listed in the latest edition of the Overton reference does not indicate that, though, since the Census is given as 65-65-65-63-63. The variety was missing from the great Eliasberg Collection, however.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE PROOF 1830 HALF DOLLAR





1494. 1830, O-108. Rarity-3 as variety, Rarity-8, possibly Unique as Proof. Gem Proof. Small 0 in date. This is a pedigreed, but possibly controversial coin since some may feel that it is a highly prooflike first strike Uncirculated coin rather than a true Proof. Of all the Proof Bust Half Dollars in the John Jav Pittman Collection, this is the one that offers the most possible room for discussion and dissent. The others that I have catalogued as Proofs here seem to be relatively easy calls, but this particular specimen does offer the cataloguer (and the viewers) more of a challenge. The coin is very sharply struck, although some of the stars are flat and drawn to the rim. However, the main devices are very bold with the sole exception of the clasp on Liberty's shoulder. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and there is slight bulge in front of the throat. A small die dot appears at the denticles below 83 of the date, characteristic of many specimens of the variety. There is one small nick on the bust, but the coin is otherwise nearly pristine, and quality-wise it is one of the finest, if not the finest, of JJP's Proof Bust Half Dollars, if, indeed, it is a bonafide Proof.

The toning is particularly superb, a medium to deep blend of blue, violet, reddish-gold, and greenish-gold. There are a few minor planchet imperfections present at the time of striking, now entirely covered by the superb toning. JJP purchased this from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale (B. Max Mehl, 3/48), Lot 865, for \$47.25.

In Proof, the 1830 Half Dollar is exceedingly rare. Of the Proofs that Walter Breen listed in his Proof Encyclopedia, none was this O-108 variety, and so, if this is a true Proof, it is of the greatest possible rarity, possibly even Unique. A small number of Proofs of other varieties have also been reported. Of the several others called Proof that I have seen, only the Terrell: 837 specimen and the example in Lester Merkin's 2/71 sale, Lot 720, struck me as the real thing. JJP's notes indicate that he also considered the Empire: 1330 - McPherson - 1949 ANA: 1482 specimen a true Proof. Even if all the specimens mentioned here are true Proofs, this still accounts for only four specimens which seems consistent with the number of Proofs known of other dates of this type. Final note: For those who do not feel that this Pittman-Allenburger specimen is really a Proof, I will point out that even as a prooflike business strike it is rare and desirable and possibly the second or third finest known of this rather scarce variety.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1831 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only Two Specimens Known





1495. 1831, O-103. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. Very Choice Proof. Here is a Proof over which there will be absolutely no controversy. It looks as much like a Proof as any high quality Proof Barber Half Dollar. It has an unbelievable strike and is perfectly centered with broad even denticles all around. The stars are bold and have all of their radial lines. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have tremendous brilliance with very attractive light reddish-gold peripheral toning highlighted with a touch of violet and blue. There are many die polishing lines on the neck and drapery. On the face of Liberty, there are a few light parallel lines, like adjustment marks, but these are almost certainly "as made". Three tiny marks are noted on the drapery above and left of the first 1 in the date. There are also a few very faint hairlines in the fields; however, the fields are almost entirely free of marks or abrasions. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection, 3/23/48, Lot 871, for \$58.50.

To the best of my knowledge, only two Proof Half Dollars of this date are known, although several others have been offered as Proofs in the past, including specimens of varieties other than O-103. The two Proof 1831 Half Dollars known to me are as follows.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 871; S. H. Chapman.
- 2. Auction '79: 155; Sixten Erling, Paramount International Coin Corp's. Rare Coin List No. 12; private collector from Illinois.

In addition to these two specimens, there have been several other offerings in the distant past of Proof 1831 Half Dollars, including Joseph Mickley (1867): 1710, Richard Winsor (1895): 522, Peter Mougey (1910): 518, and George Earle (1912): 2942. It is highly unlikely that these represent four distinct specimens and I feel that it is probable that the two specimens listed above duplicate the coins from these ancient offerings. However, they do raise the possibility that one or more additional Proof 1831 Half Dollars exist.

GORGEOUS GEM UNCIRCULATED 1831 HALF DOLLAR



1496. 1831, O-111. Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated. A stunning coin of outstanding quality and beauty. The stars are all flat, but the coin is otherwise very sharply struck. It is fully frosty with fabulous luster and superb light to medium multi-colored iridescent toning, a blend of delicate reddish-gold and blue-green. The toning is fairly uniform across the obverse, but located mostly at the periphery on the reverse. A hairline die break runs through the bases of the numerals in the date extending out slightly to the left and right. There is one small nick hidden in the folds of the drapery and a few other trivial contact marks, but this is still a Gem of the highest order. Purchased by JJP from Wayte Raymond on 5/14/46 for \$2.25.

When I was first organizing and inventorying this collection for auction, I wondered which coin or coins provided JJP with the greatest return on his initial investment. In the first sale last October, there were many coins that brought thousands of times what JJP initially paid. To select just two of the most obvious examples, Lot 738, a 1919-S Mercury Dime, was purchased by JJP for \$2.60 and realized \$12,100, nearly 5000 times his initial investment. An even greater return was realized by the mint state 1854 Type II Gold Dollar for which JJP paid \$7; when sold in October 1997, the coin realized \$55,000! This 1831 Half Dollar, and perhaps several of the other Gem Uncirculated Half Dollars that JJP bought in the mid 1940's, may not do quite as well as those two examples, but they will undoubtedly bring thousands of times the price that JJP paid for them a half century ago.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1832 HALF DOLLAR



1497. 1832, O-103. Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated. Well struck with full details on the bust of Liberty, the eagle, and the stars, every one of which shows all or most of its radial lines. Like the 1831 in the preceding lot, this specimen has superb medium multicolored toning, a uniform blend of autumn leaves colors, including greenish-gold, blue and russet. Under this toning, the surfaces are fully frosty and very clean with virtually nothing in the way of marks or hairlines. On the reverse, there is slight evidence of die clashing above the eagle. Without question, this coin has superb overall eye appeal. This was purchased at the same time as the 1831 on 5/14/46 from Wayte Raymond; this one was less costly, however; JJP paid only \$2 for it.

1498. 1832, O-108. Rarity-4. Fine to Very Fine. Counterstamped "Houck's/Panacea/Baltimore" in three lines in a rectangle in front of the face. Medium gray and gold toning, scratches in the field by the counterstamp. Purchased from E.A. Parker in 1953 for \$5.50. The majority of coins with the "Houck's Panacea" counterstamp are Capped Bust Half Dollars, most of them from the late 1820's and early 1830's. Of the known issues, the three most common dates with this counterstamp are 1832, 1833, and 1834.

UNIQUE PROOF 1832 HALF DOLLAR, O-122





1499. 1832, O-122. Rarity-1 as variety, Unique as Proof. Very Choice Proof, with the eye appeal of a superb Gem. Small letters reverse. This is an incredible coin, one of the really amazing rarities of the John Jay Pittman Collection. It is fully struck on the bust of Liberty and most of the eagle, but it does have some weak stars (the five at the top especially) and weakness at (5) 0 C in the denomination, the stem of the olive branch and the eagle's right talons from die lapping or polishing. The fields are as mirrorlike as one will ever see on a Proof Bust Half Dollar, even in the area within the shield. The toning is utterly superb, a blend of deep blue and gold with highlights of violet. There are some light hairlines in the fields, especially behind Liberty's head and between the 4th and 5th stars. There are also some hairline scratches above the eagle's head along the scroll. There is also a small unfinished area above Liberty's cap. All of the hairlines, as well as the few trivial marks present, are literally hidden under the deep toning and are visible only on very close inspection. The eye appeal of this coin far exceeds its already high technical grade, and the coin ranks as one of the prettiest, most visually stunning Proof coins in the entire Pittman Collection. That this is a legitimate Proof is beyond question, and I feel that this is one of the coins in the sale with which the viewers will be the most impressed and enthused. JJP purchased this coin for \$20 on 12/28/45 from "Miss Wright" who was selling

items from the Henry Chapman inventory a full ten years after Chapman's death in 1935 at the age of 75. JJP purchased several other items from the Chapman inventory at the same time that he purchased this Proof 1832 Half Dollar but, for some reason that is not indicated in his notes, everything was returned for a refund with the sole exception of this Half Dollar.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only known Proof 1832 Half Dollar of the O-122 variety. The other known Proofs of this date are all the O-123 variety, generally referred to as the "Dash Date" because of the little "hyphen" to the left of the base of the 1 in the date. This "Dash Date" variety exists only in Proof and, at present, only four examples are known, including one in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, and another that is lightly circulated. This specimen is the fifth known Proof 1832 Half Dollar, but the only example that is not the Proof-only "Dash Date" variety. Following is a complete list of the Proof 1832 Half Dollars known to me.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. Harold Bareford: 386; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 880.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1881; John H. Clapp; possibly Parmelee: 1015.
- 4. Charlton E. Meyer, Jr., purchased from dealer and Bust Half Dollar expert, Sheridan Downey, who, with Stuart Levine, attributed all of the Bust Half Dollars in the Pittman Collection; Olin Carter Collection (Steve Ivy, 1982). Lightly circulated, the plate coin in the Third Edition of the Overton reference.
- 5. **John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;** Henry Chapman. O-122, the only one of the five Proofs that is not the "Dash Date" variety.

1500. 1833, O-108. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. Fully struck with broad even denticles and all stars except No. 8 sharp and showing their complete radial lines. The fields are highly prooflike and JJP himself at one time thought that this might be a Proof. I do not consider it to be one, however, and, in my opinion, the only true Proofs of this date are the Crushed Lettered Edge Proofs, one of which appears in Lot 1502. This spec-

imen has medium blue and greenish-gold toning on the right hand side of the obverse and reverse, and duller gold and reddish-gold on the left hand side. Undoubtedly, this unusual toning was the result of the way the coin was stored at some time in its past. Purchased by JJP at the 1947 ANA convention in Buffalo, New York, for \$1.60, source unknown.

GEM MINT STATE 1833 HALF DOLLAR



1501. **1833, O-114. Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated.** Frosty and sharply struck with excellent luster under beautiful multicolored iridescent toning that is mainly reddishgold and blue-green. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few microscopic marks. The overall



appearance and eye appeal of this coin are outstanding. Purchased privately from Wayte Raymond at the same time JJP acquired the 1831 and 1832 Gems offered earlier. For this 1833, JJP paid Raymond \$2.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1833 HALF DOLLAR

O-116, The Crushed Lettered Edge Variety One Of Only Four Specimens Known





1502. 1833, Restrike, Crushed Lettered Edge, O-116. High Rarity-7. Gem Proof. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful medium reddish-gold toning that has iridescent highlights of greenish-gold and blue-green. Doubling is evident on the date and also on some letters in the reverse legend as well as in the denomination. The doubling is also seen on the arrowheads and arrow shafts. The doubling is present on all the digits of the date and it is most noticeable at 1 and 8, but also to a lesser extent on both of the 3's. There are lint marks at the 4th and 9th stars. A faint die break connects the bases of 183 and follows the curve of the rim, ending between stars 1 and 2 at the denticles. The top left serif of the 1 in the date is missing and there is a tiny thorn-like projection into the field from the end of the olive branch. Both the obverse and reverse feature a broad flat rim and an inner border that consists of small beads rather than denticles. The edge is very mirrorlike and almost plain with just occasional faint letters from the original Lettered Edge barely visible. The minor blotchiness or roughness on the Bust of Liberty just above the drapery is common to all of the four known specimens of this Crushed Lettered Edge variety. JJP purchased this great rarity from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection, 3/23/48, Lot 890, for \$77.50.

The offering here in the John Jay Pittman Collection of all three of the CLE Half Dollars represents only the second time in numismatic history that all three have been offered for sale in the same auction. Actually, the inclusion of any one of these three pieces in an auction is noteworthy, but only the B. Max Mehl sale of the Dr. Christian A. Allenburger Collection in March 1948 contained all three examples in one collection prior to this sale of the John Jay Pittman Collection. The Richard Winsor sale contained two of the issues and possibly the third (it is difficult to tell from the catalogue description), but this sale occurred in 1895, more than 100 years ago, and so JJP having all three of these important rarities in his collection is yet another of his major numismatic achievements.

This Proof and the similar Crushed Lettered Edge Proofs of 1834 and 1835 also offered here in the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part II, are among the most interesting of all early U.S. Proof issues. They were not struck in the years indicated by the dates on the coins, but rather were struck in 1836 from obverse dies that were used only to strike these varieties, and a common reverse die that was used not only for these CLE varieties, but also the O-106 variety of 1836, including Proofs of that variety and business strikes as well. This would seem to indicate that the three Crushed Lettered Edge issues were minted early in 1836. In 1990, Russell J. Logan wrote an excellent in-depth analysis of the Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollars of 1833, 1834 and 1835, carefully examining aspects of their die preparation and possible emission sequence. He also commented on the striking characteristics of the issues by noting that, "Although all CLE's examined are Proofs having received multiple blows from the working dies, all exhibit a weakness of strike in the same region of the coin. Depending upon the year, the



weakness resides either on the obverse or the reverse but always in the fore curls of Miss Liberty or in the eagle's talons and olive branch stem. These areas are directly opposing each other on the coin. The 1833's and the 1835's are weak in the fore curls while the 1834's are weak in the talons." Logan adds, "The reeded edge proof bust half dollars dated 1836 through 1839 do not exhibit this striking weakness and were probably struck with the new steam press", meaning, of course, that these CLE's were minted with the old screw press. Logan also notes that, "The 1833 CLE used a master die obverse hub from the 1832-1834 era which shows the chin and neck areas (noted above) of the hub reworked. The stars, date and denticle count fit the year perfectly." In conclusion, Logan states, "In comparing the CLE's with their dated contemporaries, we find that the weight and size are correct for half dollars minted prior to the Coinage Act of 1837. The hubs and punches are correct for the mid-1830's and the emission sequence for the reverse and edge suggest that they were minted in early 1836.

Other theories have been expounded that the 1833-1835 CLE Half Dollars were struck to test the new steam presses later in the year in 1836, in contradiction to Logan's and others opinions that they were struck early in the year on the screw press. Much of what we know, or think we know, about these enigmatic issues, is conjecture since no written information about their existence or the circumstances under which they were manufactured exists in the Mint archives. What we are sure of, however, is that these are all great rarities with only a few examples of each year known. In his article in 1990 on the subject, Russell Logan listed the known specimens and their pedigrees, and he was kind enough to give me an update of that information in November 1997. The known specimens of the 1833 CLE Half Dollar and their pedigree information, as supplied by Russell Logan, are as follows, with additional comments by the cataloguer, David W. Akers.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 890.
- 3. Norweb: 3105; Richard Picker (1958).
- 4. R.E. Cox, Jr.: 2141; Lester Merkin (1960). Circulated to Extremely Fine.

The first known offering of this rarity was in the Richard Winsor sale of December 1895, Lot 525. The coin was catalogued as a superb specimen and in all probability is either No. 2 or No. 3 above. Another specimen appeared in B. Max Mehl's sale of the "Collection of a Prominent American" (H.O. Granberg) in May 1915, Lot 798. This specimen is possibly the Cox coin listed as No. 4 above. The specimen pictured on page 59 in the Eric Newman-Ken Bressett book entitled "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar", appears to be the specimen from the Smithsonian Institution. Thus, at the present time, there are only four known examples of the 1833 CLE Half Dollar, one permanently off the market and one circulated, leaving this John Jay Pittman specimen and the Norweb Collection example as the only two high quality examples available to collectors. For the most thorough and informative analysis of the subject of the CLE Half Dollars of 1833, 1834 and 1835 yet written, the reader is referred to Russell J. Logan's excellent article in the John Reich Journal of December 1990, Vol. V, No. 3. Q. David Bowers' excellent commentary on Lot 1900 of the Louis Eliasberg, Sr. Collection sale is also highly recommended reading and presents a very balanced view of the various theories concerning these issues.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1834 HALF DOLLAR



1503. 1834, Large Date, Large Letters, O-101. Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated. A beautiful original specimen with full mint frost and superb silvery gray and multi-colored iridescent toning, mostly blue-green and reddish-gold. Generally quite well struck, but some stars are flat; there is also a weakness where the eagle's left wing joins the shield and on some of the hair curls near the face. There



are only a few marks and hairlines in the fields and on the devices, and the coin is very flashy and extremely attractive. Recutting is visible on the upright of the 5 in the denomination, a characteristic of the variety. Purchased on 5/14/46 from Wayte Raymond along with a number of other Gem Bust Half Dollars, this one priced at \$2.50.





1504. 1834, O-108. Rarity-2. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Large Date, Small Letters. Counterstamped "Houck's/Panacea/Baltimore" in three lines in a rectangular counterpunch in front of the face. The host coin is well struck with even wear and medium reddish-gold and pale blue-violet toning. Scarce and popular as are all "Houck's Panacea" counterstamped coins, most of which are Bust Half Dollars like this one from the early 1830's. Purchased from Maurice Storck in 1954 for \$5.

FULLY PROOFLIKE 1834 HALF DOLLAR



1505. **1834**, Small Date, Small Letters, O-110. Rarity-4. Choice Uncirculated, fully prooflike, so prooflike, in fact, that it was considered by JJP to be a Proof and was purchased as such at a legitimate Proof price in 1948. I do not feel that the coin is a Proof, however, even though other experts have examined it in the past and considered it to be one. To me, it is a very prooflike business strike, but opinions may legitimately differ, so close inspection by interested bidders is strongly suggested. The coin is very sharply struck, although stars 1, 2 and 8 do not have all of their radial lines. On the obverse, the denticles are very prominent and well separated, while on the reverse, the denticles are indistinct or missing entirely. The letters in the



reverse legend are also drawn to the rim. There is an unfinished area around the eagle's head, top of the left wing, and near the scroll. The toning is unusual but very attractive, mostly medium greenish-gold with considerable reddish-gold and a hint of blue. There is a small area of planchet roughness and carbon streaking at the 5th star. On the reverse, there are several die breaks, including one running from the top leaf pair through the tip of the eagle's left wing, then through UNITED curving past the bottom of S1 to the scroll. Another begins below OF in the field and curves through the right end of the scroll down through the eagle's right wing. Purchased as a Proof on 3/23/48 from Ben's Stamp & Coin (Ben Dreiske) for \$25.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1834 CLE HALF DOLLAR, O-122





1506. 1834, Restrike, Crushed Lettered Edge, Small Date, Small Letters, O-122. High Rarity-7. Proof. This is the second of the three Crushed Lettered Edge Proof Half Dollars in the John Jay Pittman Collection and the lowest quality coin of the three, although it is still a very presentable specimen. It was probably cleaned at one time and now has irregular russet and blue-green toning. Most of the original Proof surface still shows under the toning along with a number of light hairlines. There are some light contact marks on the coin as well, mostly on the obverse in the fields; there is also one mark under the eagle's beak. A number of small lint marks are present in the reverse fields, the most obvious of which is a vertical one from the middle left talon. As is the case with all CLE's, the rim is broad and even and the denticles consist of small uniform beads, in contrast to the elongated denticles of Proofs of regular issues. This specimen was purchased by JJP from the 1949 ANA sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery; it was offered as Lot 1487 and realized \$52.

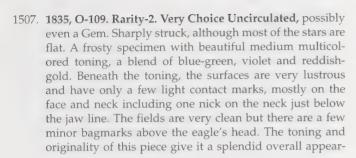
The 1834 Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollar is a Restrike minted, according to researcher Russell Logan and others, in early 1836 on the screw press using an obverse die that was used only for this variety and not for any business strikes. The reverse die is one that was used for business strikes of 1836, Overton varieties O-106 and O-106a, and Proofs of O-106, as well as all of the Crushed Lettered Edge Proofs of 1833, 1834 and 1835. In his in-depth article for the John Reich Journal in December 1990, Logan made the observation, "Because the obverses of the CLE's are not known to be paired with any other reverse, we cannot postulate on an emission sequence based on other obverse usages. But we can identify the master die, examine the fonts of the punches and count the denticles in order to compare them with other contemporary business and proof strikes. The 1834 CLE used a master die obverse hub from the 1830-32 era! Although this hub may appear "wrong" for the date, other documented inconsistencies occurred during the mid-1830's. In 1834 there were two sizes for dates used on the half dollars. The 1834 CLE used the small date, the proper star size and denticle count." From this and considerable other evidence, Logan concluded that the 1834 CLE was minted early in 1836. However, others, including the late Walter Breen, have contended that the issue was minted in late 1836 on the new steam press, possibly to test this new equipment for future production of Half Dollars and the newly proposed Silver Dollars. All of these theories are conjecture since no definitive written evidence exists which outlines the circumstances of their manufacture. Nevertheless, Russell Logan's arguments certainly seem compelling, and I think that the prevalent view today is that these CLE issues were indeed struck on the screw presses early in 1836.

The 1834 CLE is only slightly less rare than the similar pieces dated 1833 and 1835, also offered here in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Russell Logan has updated the pedigree information from his 1990 article for me and the list of the five known specimens follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; 1949 ANA sale: 1487; Ohio collector. This specimen is photographed in Walter Breen's "Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins", page 389.
- 3. Stack's 12/94: 887; Lester Merkin; Empire: 1338; R.T. McPherson: 887; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 904.
- 1983 ANA sale: 2477; Bowers & Ruddy's Rare Coin Review No. 43, April 1982. This specimen is circulated to XF.
- 5. Floyd Starr: 542; Brand-Lichtenfels II: 1311.

The coin pictured on page 59 in the Eric Newman-Ken Bressett book "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" is the Smithsonian example. A Proof 1834 Half Dollar described as having Small Date and Small Letters was sold in the Davis-Graves sale in 1954 as Lot 527; however, since there was no photo it is not possible to know whether or not this was a Proof 1834 CLE. If it was, then it would be a sixth known specimen. The Chapman brothers sale of the Richard Winsor Collection in December 1895 was the first known offering of this variety. The specimen in that sale appeared as Lot 527 and is almost certainly No. 2, 3 or 5 listed above.







ance. Purchased from George Bauer's sale XVI, 10/13/45, Lot 548, for \$2.20.

The Condition Census listed in the Don Parsley update of the Overton reference lists five pieces tied for the top spot, all grading MS-60. However, the example in the Louis Eliasberg Collection sale, Lot 1899, was a superb Gem and is far and away the finest known. This piece, far better than the minimal Uncirculated grade of the other pieces in the Condition Census, therefore, possibly ranks as the second finest known of this moderately scarce variety.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1835 CLE HALF DOLLAR, O-111



1508. 1835, Restrike, Crushed Lettered Edge, O-111. Rarity-8. Very Choice Proof. This is a magnificent specimen of this great rarity. It is fully brilliant with deeply mirrorlike fields, light golden toning over most of its surface, and just a trace of darker reddish-gold at the borders. There are a few very light hairlines on the obverse, including several in the field in front of the face, as well as a few microscopic contact marks on the face by the mouth. There are also a few light hairlines across the face. The mirrored edge shows only faint traces of the original lettered edge. Struck from an obverse die that is unique to



this Proof-only variety. The reverse die, however, is common to the other Crushed Lettered Edge issues as well as the O-106 variety of 1836. This coin has the distinctive look of the Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollars, with the broad rim and beaded border inside, which is in marked contrast to the broad denticles of other Proof Bust Half Dollars of the period. This piece has an excellent appearance, although it falls just slightly below the quality of the Gem Eliasberg specimen. JJP purchased this coin on 3/23/48 from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection as Lot 917 for \$52.50.

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1508 continued





This is the third and final Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollar in the John Jay Pittman Collection. As noted earlier, this marks only the second time in this century that all three of these pieces have been offered for sale in one auction, the only other time being the Allenburger Collection sale in 1948 from which JJP obtained two of the pieces offered here. The Richard Winsor Collection in 1895 also contained at least two of the pieces and possibly the third, although it is not certain that the 1835 in that sale was the Crushed Lettered Edge variety. In Russell Logan's updated pedigree information of the 1835 CLE Half Dollar, which he relayed to me in a letter in November 1997, he was able to identify only three distinct specimens of this variety, although, as noted below, it is possible that another example exists. In his excellent article on the Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollars that appeared in the John Reich Journal, Vol. V, No. 3, dated December 1990, Logan determined that, "The 1835 CLE used a master die obverse hub from the 1834-36 era. The size and font of the stars, date and denticle count are identical to the business strike half dollars bearing the same date." In concluding his article, Logan noted, "In comparing the CLE's with their dated contemporaries, we find that the weight and size are correct for half dollars minted prior to the Coinage Act of 1837. The hubs and punches are correct for the mid-1830's and the emission sequence for the reverse and edge suggest that they were minted early in 1836." In the past, others, including Walter Breen have concluded that these CLE Half Dollars were minted late in 1836, possibly even on the new steam presses to test the new equipment. It may not be possible to ever know for certain which theory is the correct one since nothing exists in

the Mint archives that mentions these coins and the circumstances under which they were struck. Furthermore, they were not recognized as anything different from their normal Proof Bust Half Dollar contemporaries until the end of the 19th century and, in fact, it was not until the Allenburger sale in 1948 that any cataloguer made any kind of fuss over them at all. They were not listed in Haseltine, Beistle or even the Overton book, including the latest edition, and it has only been recently that they were assigned the new Overton numbers by the BHNC that are used here. Following is the roster of known specimens of the Proof 1835 CLE Bust Half Dollar, O-111, as provided to me by Russell Logan.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. Louis Eliasberg: 1900; John H. Clapp; George H. Earle: 2955.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 917.

The specimen pictured on page 59 of Eric Newman and Ken Bressett's book "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" is undoubtedly the specimen in the Smithsonian Institution listed as No. 1 above. Also, according to the description (there is no photo) of an 1835 Half Dollar catalogued as a Proof in the 1957 Empire sale, Lot 1340, where it was noted as having a "delicately milled border", it is possible that this was a CLE specimen; based on the date it was offered for sale, it would have to be a fourth example. However, the rest of the description, and the price realized, indicate to me that it was probably not a CLE. This would leave the number of known specimens at three, as indicated above.

- 1509. 1836, Lettered Edge, O-108. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Just a trace of friction on the highest points. Attractive medium reddish-gold toning with iridescent blue and violet at the borders. Partially prooflike fields and decent, but not great, luster. There are some light hairlines and a few minor contact marks, as well as a scratch in the field behind the head running from the hair curls toward the 12th star. On this variety, the date 1836 is punched over 1336, i.e. a 3 was originally punched in the 8's position and then effaced and the correct numeral 8 punched into the proper position. Purchased by JJP from French's of Troy, New York, on 2/13/59 as a Proof for \$48.
- 1510. 1836, Lettered Edge, O-108a. Rarity-2. Uncirculated. Sharply struck with very well defined stars. Attractive light to medium iridescent multicolored toning. Mostly reddish-gold, but with traces of blue-green and violet near the borders. There is a die break at the bottom of the date, another through the stars on the right. The face and neck of Liberty have some minor contact marks and light hairlines, but the fields are quite nice. The reverse, in particular, is beautiful and much higher grade than the obverse. The cheek of Liberty may have been "smoothed" slightly in an effort to remove or minimize an unsightly nick. Purchased at the 1947 ANA convention in Buffalo, New York, for \$2, seller unknown.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1836 REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLAR



1511. 1836, Reeded Edge. Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck and fully prooflike, although lacking the type of proof surface and quality of strike possessed by the legitimate Proofs of this issue. Several of the stars do not have complete definition and stars 12 and 13 are nearly flat. The arrowheads are also not fully defined and the bottom of STA in STATES and the tops of CE in CENTS are all weak, as are the bottoms of the numerals in the date. Doubling is evident on 50 CENTS. This specimen is very lustrous and attractive with beautiful medium reddishgold, violet and blue toning. A few very light hairlines and marks are noted in the fields, but none is serious. There are also numerous planchet lines and die polishing lines present in the fields. On the obverse, especially below and left of the date, there is a partial wire rim. The milling or reeding on this coin is very fine, considerably different than the milling on the 1837 and 1838 that follow. Purchased by JJP as a Brilliant Proof from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 1/28/52, Lot 2028, for \$110.



An estimated 20-25 Proofs and approximately 1200 business strikes of this new issue were minted beginning on November 8, 1836. All of these pieces were struck on the newly installed and operational steam presses as opposed to the hand operated screw presses that had been used to strike previous Bust Half Dollars. In the past, this issue has been considered a pattern and is listed in the standard Judd pattern reference as J-57. This designation as a pattern, however, seems inconsistent both with the number of specimens struck and the fact that most of them were business strikes which were almost immediately placed into circulation. They were not made for or handed out to dignitaries or mint officials and, with well over a thousand pieces struck, they obviously also were not made for numismatic distribution. Therefore, it is much more accurate to consider this a regular issue rather than a pattern and that is the current thinking of modern numismatists. Since most 1836 Reeded Edge Half Dollars were placed into circulation, mint state business strikes are rare and probably account for less than 10% of the known specimens. Examples as choice as this one are very rare and this piece is probably in the Condition Census for the issue.

INTERESTING 1837 HALF DOLLAR

Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green — "Proof"



1512. **1837**, **Reeded Edge**. **Uncirculated**. Partially prooflike fields; heavy die file marks near the reverse border, especially below and right of CENTS and also above UNITED STATES OF. Many die polishing lines are present in the fields, again, mostly on the reverse. Several lint marks are noticeable at the date indicating that the dies were at least wiped with a cloth before striking. The surfaces of the coin have light but irregular reddish-gold toning and also some light hairlines and minor marks. There are also a few faint scratches in the fields. In addition to the lint marks at the



date, there are a few lint marks on the bust below the shoulder clasp. The milling is broad, much more like the milling on the 1838 that follows than on the 1836 in the preceding lot. This is a most interesting coin, but I do not consider it a Proof, although it was so described in the 1949 ANA sale where it appeared as Lot 1492 and was purchased by JJP for \$52. Earlier, it had appeared in the 1946 ANA sale as Lot 808 and, earlier still, it was in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection as a Proof.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE GEM PROOF 1838 HALF DOLLAR





1513. 1838, Reeded Edge. Gem Proof. This is an incredible coin, one of the greatest and most important rarities among all of John Jay Pittman's Proof coins. The coin is fully struck with sharp stars, a square edge, and deeply mirrorlike fields. The toning is especially superb, a deep multicolored iridescent blend of blue, violet, russet and greenishgold; the luster beneath the toning is superb. There is considerable evidence of die polishing, especially near the rims and around the profile. There is a large lint mark in the right obverse field by the 8th star and a smaller one in the reverse field between the eagle's beak and the A in STATES. Another lint mark appears between the 4th star and the face and a few other tiny ones are noted on the reverse. There is also a small lint mark on Liberty's nose. The reverse of this coin is superb Gem quality, nearly flawless and astonishingly beautiful. It is equal in quality and beauty to any Proof of any denomination in the Pittman Collection. The obverse is also very nice, but it does have a few toning spots, sometimes referred to as "water spots", and there is also one hairline on the face and neck that, for some, may even remove this coin from the Gem classification. However, the overall appearance of this coin is so outstanding that to call it less than a Gem would be an injustice. The milling in broad and incised; it is similar to that on the 1837, and much coarser than the milling on the 1836 which has a finer gauge. JJP purchased this coin privately from Wayte Raymond on 5/14/46 for \$75. It is the same coin that was sold in Raymond's Newcomb II sale as Lot 850 on May 16, 1945, for \$60. It is one of the specimens listed by Walter Breen in his Proof Encyclopedia and the only one he indicates is a Gem.

It is interesting to note that, in Proof, the 1838 Half Dollar from the Philadelphia Mint is actually substantially more rare than the famous 1838 Half Dollar from the New Orleans Mint since all of the known 1838-O Half Dollars were struck in Proof, while just a few of the 1838 Philadelphia issues were minted in that format. Some 1838 Half Dollars have been described as Proofs in the past that were probably really only prooflike business strikes. (For example, in the famous Lorin G. Parmelee Collection sale of 1890, a specimen was described as a Proof in Lot 1087 but realized only \$3.25. On the other hand, the Thomas Cleneay specimen that was sold just 6 months later realized \$36 and so, without being able to see the coins, it would be my guess that the Cleneay coin was a true Proof and the Parmelee specimen was not.) To the best of my knowledge, only three specimens exist of this issue that are indisputable Proofs, although one or two others may exist as noted below.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Wayte Raymond; Newcomb II: 850.
- 2. Reed Hawn: 120.
- 3. R.E. Cox, Jr.: 1871; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2793; Virgil Brand.

The aforementioned Thomas Cleneay specimen sold in 1890 was undoubtedly a true Proof and it may have reappeared as one of the three specimens listed above. If not, it would be a fourth specimen. Another example called Proof appeared as Lot 1343 of the Empire Collection sold by Stack's in 1957. It was described as, "Slide marks evident on cheek. Reverse has a slight diagonal mark across the shield." I have not seen this coin, but JJP and others have indicated that it was prooflike and not a true Proof 1838 Half Dollar. If they were mistaken, however, it could be another known example. Nevertheless, I believe that the three specimens listed above are the only known examples of this issue in Proof. Either No. 2 or No. 3 is likely the specimen certified by NGC as Proof-64.

1514. **1839**, **Bust Type. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Probably cleaned at one time, now with light to medium reddish-gold toning highlighted with a touch of violet, blue and russet. There is a small cut above the 3 in the date

into the truncation, light to moderate marks and hairlines elsewhere. Purchased by JJP for \$2, date of purchase and seller unknown.

VERY CHOICE 1839-O HALF DOLLAR



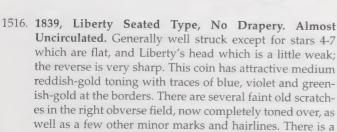


1515. **1839-O**, **Bust Type**. **Very Choice Uncirculated**, nearly in the Gem category. Sharply struck; lustrous and frosty with beautiful medium multicolored toning, a mix of reddish-gold and blue-green. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few light marks and hairlines. The O mintmark is repunched, as it is on all known specimens, the doubling visible at the base. A thin hairline die break encircles the entire obverse through the stars, date, bust and cap. Fine hairline die breaks also appear on the reverse in the legend and through the arrow tips, the denomination and the left wing of the eagle. Beautiful

overall appearance; in fact, this is a coin that could easily be graded Gem Uncirculated and not arouse a great deal of dissent. Purchased by JJP from a Wayte Raymond sale, 2/18/47, Lot 536 for \$11.50.

The 1839-O is by far the rarest of the three regular issues of this short-lived two year type. Most known examples are circulated with Very Fine to AU examples being the most commonly encountered specimens. In mint state, the 1839-O Half Dollar is rare and, in grades above Choice Uncirculated, it is very rare. It is doubtful if more than half a dozen or so specimens exist that are comparable in overall quality to this lovely borderline Gem.







small cud on the obverse rim by stars 8 and 9 and the Liberty cap. Some tiny carbon spots are visible in the fields, mostly on the reverse. This coin is much better looking than it sounds and it really is a very attractive, original specimen. This is a scarce and popular one-year-only type coin, especially in grades above Extremely Fine. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 79th sale, 11/4/43, Lot 795, for \$8.25.

UNIQUE PROOF 1839 LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLAR

With Drapery Variety





1517. 1839, Liberty Seated, With Drapery At Elbow. Very Choice Proof. Unique, the only known or reported Proof 1839 With Drapery Liberty Seated Half Dollar. It is fully struck with broad rims, a square edge, sharp stars, full head, and deep mirror fields, including the area within the shield. There are no contact marks on the coin, but there are a few very light hairlines in the fields that keep the coin from the Gem class. The surfaces are very brilliant and lustrous with just a hint of light golden toning. There is a small lint mark from the 4th star to the rim on the obverse and another on the reverse at the top of the eagle's left wing. Purchased by JJP from the Kreisberg-

Schulman sale of the Gustav Lichtenfels Collection, 2/18/61, Lot 2799, for \$725. The coin is thought to have previously been in the Virgil Brand Collection.

This Proof 1839 Liberty Seated Half Dollar is a perfect partner for the Proof 1839 Liberty Seated Quarter in Lot 1298. Both coins are unique and the only examples ever reported or even rumored to exist. In the Randy Wiley-Bill Bugert reference work on Liberty Seated Half Dollars, they note that the 1839 With Drapery is unknown in Proof, but obviously they were unaware of the existence of this Pittman-Lichtenfels-Brand specimen. It is not often that one has the opportunity to bid on a unique coin and so this Proof 1839 With Drapery Half Dollar certainly represents one of the most important bidding opportunities in the entire Pittman Collection sale.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1839 WITH DRAPERY HALF DOLLAR





1518. 1839, Liberty Seated, With Drapery At Elbow. Choice Uncirculated. A few stars are weak or flat, but the coin is generally well struck with sharp head detail on Miss Liberty. The eagle is also fully defined except for a slight weakness on the left talons and on the feathers of the left leg. There are some light planchet lines, "as made", akin to adjustment marks across Liberty's breast, stomach and legs. There is also one hairline from the arm toward the area between the 11th and 12th stars. The toning is superb, especially on the obverse, with light to medium reddishgold in the centers and deeper shades of violet and blue at the borders. The reverse fields are partially prooflike, but there is only the slightest evidence of a prooflike surface on the obverse. A couple of very minor abrasions are noted above the eagle's head, but they are now toned over and barely noticeable. The Wiley-Bugert reference notes that this issue is, "Slightly more available than the No Drapery, still rare in mint state." Purchased by JJP from George Bauer's sale XVII on 12/15/45, Lot 527, for \$7.50.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1840 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only Four Specimens Known





1519. 1840, Small Letters. Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. Very sharply struck, but not entirely full since there is a slight weakness on the eagle's left leg and talons, characteristic of all known specimens. The fields are deep mirrors, including the area within the shield, and there is a trace of a wire rim on the obverse and a full wire rim around the entire reverse. The toning on this coin is absolutely superb, medium reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. There are a few very faint hairlines as well as a couple of microscopic marks in the fields, but these are hidden under the toning and scarcely noticeable. There is a lint mark from the end of the stem of the olive branch to O in DOLLAR. There are also prominent curved die scratches on Liberty's neck as well as similar curved die scratches in the obverse shield and in the folds of her gown on the legs. These die scratches are present on all four of the specimens listed below, all of which I have personally examined, and are diagnostic of the Proofs of this year, a year of which a number of fully prooflike and potentially deceptive examples are known. Purchased from James Kelly in 1946 for \$45.

This issue is a tremendous rarity, one of the truly great rarities among Proof Liberty Seated issues of the 1840's. It is my opinion that the Proof Half Dollars of this year were struck only for inclusion in the Proof sets, of which no more than ten full sets from Half Cent to Silver Dollar were minted. Small additional quantities of the Half Cent, Cent and Silver Dollar were also struck because of a modest collector demand for them, but there was no additional demand for the four smaller silver denominations, including the Half Dollar, and so apparently no additional quantities were struck. Of the approximately 10 Proof 1840 Half Dollars minted, I can account for only four different specimens. Of course, it is certainly possible that an additional one or two examples exist, but I believe that the four listed below are the only known specimens.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; James Kelly (1946).
- 2. Norweb: 3125; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2801.
- 3. Reed Hawn: 128.
- 4. Floyd Starr: 547; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 982; S.H. Chapman.

The Proof that appeared in the 1840 Proof set in the Richard Winsor sale of 1895 probably reappeared as one of the four specimens listed above; if not, it would be a fifth known example.





1520. **1840, Small Letters. Choice Uncirculated,** fully prooflike. Very sharply struck with superb luster under magnificent toning that is mostly medium reddish-gold with violet, blue and greenish-gold at the borders. There are a few light contact marks in both the right and left obverse fields, largely obscured by the toning, and there is a nick behind the eagle's head in the reverse field. There are also

a few minor marks and abrasions on Liberty's left arm. The eye appeal of this coin is outstanding, exceeding even the technical grade which is itself excellent for the issue. In circulated grades, this is a fairly common issue, but it is very scarce in mint state and quite rare in this choice condition. Acquired from French's of Troy, New York, on 2/13/59 for \$40.

VERY CHOICE 1840-O HALF DOLLAR

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen





1521. 1840-O, Very Choice Uncirculated. Large mintmark. A superb and beautiful example of this issue, perhaps the finest 1840-O Half Dollar in existence. It is very sharply struck except for portions of the eagle; in particular, every star is sharply defined with full radial lines, and the head of Liberty is nearly full. The surfaces are lustrous and frosty and have gorgeous original toning, medium reddish-gold in the centers turning to deeper blue-green at the borders; there are also a few traces of violet in the toning. The fields are very clean with almost no marks or hairlines and, in most respects, this coin has

the overall appearance of a Gem. This is a very scarce issue in the upper circulated grades and a decidedly rare one in mint state. In grades of Choice Uncirculated or better, it is extremely rare and this example may well be the finest known. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, Lot 694, for \$4.50.

This issue has a distinctive appearance due to the proximity of the obverse stars to the denticles. In all cases, they nearly touch the denticles; this is due to the fact that the denticles are significantly longer than normal on this issue.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1841 HALF DOLLAR





1522. 1841, Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with all design details extraordinarily bold. The edge is sharp and square and the fields are deeply mirrorlike. Covering the surfaces is an attractive, but unusual, blue, reddish-gold and violet toning with a dullness to it in places that is undoubtedly a function of the way the coin was stored in the past. There is a small nick in the field by star 5 and a couple of other tiny marks in the right obverse field as well as a few faint hairlines. The reverse is higher quality than the obverse and is essentially Gem quality. The date is boldly repunched, the repunching showing clearly on all four numerals. On the reverse, many of the vertical bars in the shield extend well into the horizontal crossbars. In my opinion, this is probably a Proof-only variety. Purchased from James Kelly in 1946 as part of the same transaction in which JJP acquired his Proof 1840 Half Dollar. For this 1841, JJP paid \$62.50, significantly more than the \$45 paid for the 1840, which was in keeping with the perception at that time that the 1841 was significantly more rare in Proof than the 1840. That does not appear to actually be the case, however, and, as the listing below shows, I can account for two more examples of the 1841 in Proof than I can of the 1840. Of course, additional examples of either or both issues may also exist that I have not located and listed here.

All of the silver Proof coins of 1841 are extremely rare, among the rarest of the decade. The Dime and Quarter of this year are especially rare with only two or three examples known of each issue. A few more

exist of the Half Dollar, however, although I do not believe that any more were actually struck since it is my opinion that all of the silver coins (except possibly the Dollar) were minted solely for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year. Only the Half Cent, Large Cent and perhaps the Silver Dollar were struck in additional quantities since there would have been no reason to strike more specimens of the other denominations because there was no demand for them. What little interest there was in those denominations was satisfied by the complete Proof sets that were issued.

I have been able to verify the following six 1841 Half Dollars in Proof, although No. 5 on the list needs to be examined again to see if it is a legitimate Proof. (Although the Lichtenfels Collection contained many superb and extremely rare Proofs, some of which are here in the Pittman Collection, other coins in the collection were attributed as Proofs incorrectly.) Nevertheless, I have included it in my list of known specimens since JJP's notes indicate that he felt it was a true Proof.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; James Kelly (1946).
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1919; John H. Clapp; John G. Mills (1904).
- 4. Reed Hawn: 132
- 5. Gustav Lichtenfels: 2806; Virgil Brand.
- 6. NN 52nd (Landau) sale: 575; 1952 ANA sale: 310.

Empire: 1352 is probably the same as No. 4 above; if not, it would be a seventh specimen. Some other 1841 Half Dollars have been called Proofs in the past, but have not been seen recently enough to verify them; they also may duplicate specimens in the above listing. Many prooflike 1841 Half Dollars exist, but all true Proofs of this issue were struck from the same Proof-only dies described above.

1523. **1841-O**, Almost Uncirculated. Large mintmark. Medium multicolored toning in somewhat mottled shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue-green. Frosty and well struck, although some reverse letters, especially STATES OF, are weak, not from a poor strike, but from worn or lapped dies. A die break runs from the middle talon of the left

claw past the right side of the A to the rim. Another runs horizontally from the right wing to the rim, and yet another extends from the top of the left wing, passing in front of the eagle's beak. Purchased from the 1948 ANA sale, Lot 542, for \$5.50.

INCREDIBLE PROOF 1842 HALF DOLLAR

The Finest Known Specimen





1524. 1842, Small Date. Gem Proof. This is a remarkable coin of astonishing quality and beauty. It is literally perfect in all respects and is not only one of the finest Proof Half Dollars of the 1840's, it is also one of the finest Proof No Motto Liberty Seated Half Dollars of any date that I have ever seen. The coin is absolutely fully struck with deep mirror fields and the most magnificent toning imaginable, a medium to deep blend of iridescent violet and russet at the centers which turns to deeper blue and greenish-gold at the borders. The devices and fields are flawless, entirely free of hairlines or even the most microscopic of marks. There are some raised die scratches on the broad inner border which also has a partial wire rim. The entire date has been repunched, most prominently at the 2, but the repunching also is clearly visible at the base of the 1, on the 4 at the base and the lower right side of the crossbar, and at the lower left side of the 8. This is almost certainly a Proof-only variety struck solely for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year. Despite several offerings in the past of Proof 1842 Large Date Half Dollars, I do not believe such a thing exists. All Proof Half Dollars dated 1842 are the Small Date

variety just as all Proof Quarters of 1842 are the Small Date variety. The Large Date varieties of both denominations were not struck until later in the year when there was no longer any need or demand for additional Proof coins. JJP purchased this magnificent coin, one of my favorite Proof Liberty Seated coins in the entire Pittman Collection, on 11/29/46 from R. Green of Chicago for \$52.50.

To the best of my knowledge, there are six known examples of the Proof 1842 Small Date Half Dollar. This specimen is by far the finest of them and, in fact, is one of the highest quality Proof Liberty Seated coins of the entire decade regardless of date or denomination. The six known specimens are as follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. American Numismatic Society.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; R. Green (1946).
- 4. Norweb: 3131.
- 5. Louis Eliasberg: 1922; John H. Clapp.
- 6. B & M 11/92: 1346; Auction '80: 1292; Stack's 3/65: 443; 1946 ANA sale: 816; Adolph Friedman; "World's Greatest Collection": 255; F.C.C. Boyd.

RARE 1842-O SMALL DATE HALF DOLLAR





1525. **1842-O, Small Date. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck but with the usual weakness on the left side of the eagle and the horizontal lines of the shield. Not especially lustrous and the surfaces now have dull, pale reddish-gold toning. A faint old scratch is seen in the left reverse field between the eagle's wing and UNITED. A small diagonal die break runs from the left side of the shield through the rock to the rim. Another die break runs from a point of the 11th star

through the lower leg and gown to the base. Yet another die break runs from the middle talon of the left claw between the A and L of HALF to the rim. This is a rare issue in all grades and, when available, it is almost always in grades below EF. Despite its obvious signs of circulation, this is actually one of the nicer examples known of this variety. Purchased by JJP from the Howard Egolf sale conducted by Stack's, 5/61, Lot 1018, for \$300, a very high price for a circulated Liberty Seated Half Dollar in 1961.

VERY CHOICE MINT STATE 1842-O HALF DOLLAR





1526. 1842-O, Medium Date, Large Letters. Very Choice Uncirculated. This specimen is fully struck and deeply prooflike. It is one of the nicest specimens that I have seen and has superb light reddish-gold toning with blue and violet highlights. There are no more than a few trivial marks and hairlines in the fields, mostly hidden by the beautiful toning. Overall, the eye appeal of this specimen is exceptional. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, as part of a two coin lot, Lot 696, for \$11. The other coin in the lot was the 1843-O that appears in Lot 1528 of this sale.

The 1842-O Medium Date Half Dollar (or Large Date as it is also referred to in some references) is a very underrated issue. It has long been overshadowed by the 1842-O Small Date, but it is a significant rarity in its own right, especially in mint state. In Choice Uncirculated or finer condition, this issue is an extreme rarity with no more than a handful of such quality examples known. The Eliasberg Collection sold in April 1997 contained a high quality example of this issue, but no other 1842-O Half Dollar equal in quality to this one has been offered at auction in many years.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1843 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only Six Specimens Known





struck as any Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollar could possibly be with full stars, bold detail on the head of Liberty, and all the eagle's feathers and talons sharp and well defined. The rim is broad and square and has a few raised die scratches (similar to those on the 1842). The reverse is Gem quality, in some ways similar in appearance to the 1842, although more deeply toned and with a little less violet; the predominant shades are blue, russet and greenish-gold. The obverse has similar colors but is lighter and duller and is rather blotchy, possibly from improper storage. There are light hairlines in the right obverse field as well as some toning spots.

Like all Proof 1843 Half Dollars, this coin was struck with a cracked reverse die featuring a large die break bisecting the reverse; the break runs from the rim at the top and passes between the E and S of STATES through the eagle's head and body, then down through the left serif of the F to the rim. The die break is much bolder at the top of the coin than at the bottom. All of the vertical bars of the eagle's shield extend into the horizontal bars to various levels, and extend below the shield as well. This cracked reverse die is diagnostic of Proof 1843 Half Dollars; i.e. all such Proofs were minted using this cracked reverse die and, furthermore, no business strikes were minted from it. JJP purchased this coin privately from Numismatic Gallery on 6/13/47 for \$70, \$20 less than he paid for a Proof 1843 Half Cent in the same transaction.

The 1843 Half Dollar in Proof is similar in rarity to the Proofs of 1841 and 1842. Only six examples definitely can be identified with the possibility of one or two others. Following is a list of the known specimens of the Proof 1843 Half Dollar.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- Texas dealer; John Jay Pittman I: 832; Judge Joseph F. Sawicki. Part of a complete original cased set sold in October 1997.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery (1947).
- 4. Amon Carter: 630; Will W. Neil: 2292; Fernand David. Part of a complete original cased set.
- Paramount's Rare Coin List No. 15 (1977); 1975 ANA sale: 561; Stack's 3/65: 444; 1946 ANA sale: 817; Adolph Friedman; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 6. Empire: 1361; R.T. McPherson: 924; Dr. C.A. Allenburger: 1103.

In addition to the above six specimens, two other examples have been reported but are claimed to have been cleaned. If they are actually Proofs, the number of specimens in existence could be as many as eight. Proof 1843 Half Dollars were struck only for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year and it is estimated that just 10-15 such sets were minted. Although additional small quantities of the Half Cent, Large Cent and Silver Dollar also were struck, there is no indication that any Proofs of the smaller silver denominations were minted other than those that were included in the complete Proof sets.

VERY CHOICE 1843-O HALF DOLLAR



1528. 1843-O, Very Choice Uncirculated. Extremely attractive color with medium sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue on the obverse and less vivid, lighter reddishgold on the reverse with a splash of blue at the eagle's head. The strike is absolutely full; the edge is sharp and square and the head of Liberty and every star are bold. There are numerous tiny planchet imperfections in the right obverse field that look, at first glance like handling marks, but they are actually "as made"; i.e. there are tiny planchet chips that were present in the planchet at the time of striking. Repunching is visible on the date at the 3 only, both at the upper right hand corner and at the top right of the outer curve. Most vertical shield lines extend into horizontal ones to varying levels. There is one light hairline scratch in the right obverse field running diagonally up into the field from the knee. This is a relatively common issue in circulated grades, but mint state examples are very scarce, if not rare. At this high level of quality, the 1843-O is definitely rare and very difficult to locate. JIP purchased this coin with the 1842-O Medium Date offered earlier (Lot 1526) from Numismatic Gallery's Walrath sale, 5/21/48, Lot 696, for \$11.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1844-O HALF DOLLAR



1529. **1844-O, Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck except for a few obverse stars which are either flat or weak. There is a partial wire rim on the obverse and fully prooflike fields on both sides. The toning is superb, light reddish-gold in the centers with deeper reddish-gold, violet and blue at the borders. There are some light handling marks and hairlines in the fields, but nothing serious, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. Many of the vertical stripes in the eagle's shield

extend into the horizontal bars, some all the way to the top. There is a center depression in Liberty's lap on the left leg (Wiley-Bugert variety 102, there termed the "Center dot head die"). There is also repunching clearly showing on both 4's in the date, not mentioned in W-B except with respect to variety WB-105. Small rim cuds appear on the left obverse rim. There are also diagonal die scratches or file marks on the reverse. One runs from a denticle under the top two arrowheads; another shorter one runs into the field three denticles to the right of the first. There are also die scratches in and around UNIT and other even lighter ones around ERIC in the reverse legend. The Wiley-Bugert reference notes that this issue is, "Common in low grades, but very rare in mint state", and indicates that this particular variety is High Rarity-7 in mint state. Purchased by JJP as part of a two coin lot from Numismatic Gallery's Walrath Collection sale, 5/21/48, Lot 697, for \$11; the lot also contained the 1845-O that appears in the following lot of this sale.



- 1530. 1845-O, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Similar in quality to the preceding lot. This coin is very sharply struck and almost fully prooflike. It has superb medium multicolored toning in shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold, the deeper, cooler colors at the rims. There are some light hairlines and handling marks in the fields, but nothing worth special mention. There is, however, one tiny nick on Liberty's jaw. This is the variety with normal date and mintmark, the most common variety of the issue. Like the 1844-O, this 1845-O has excellent eye appeal; in fact, its overall appearance significantly exceeds its technical grade. This is the most common O Mint Half Dollar of the 1840's and it is relatively common in most circulated grades. Mint state specimens are very scarce, however, and Choice ones are at least moderately rare. Purchased by JJP along with the 1844-O in the preceding lot from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Walrath Collection, 5/21/48, Lot 697, for \$11.
- 1531. **1846-O,** Almost Uncirculated. Medium date. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim on the reverse. The surfaces are a little lackluster under medium mottled multicolored toning that has shades of violet, russet, blue and gold. The reverse is deeper and more uniformly toned while the obverse has lighter colors and is more mottled. The reverse is also much nicer than the obverse which has a number of hairlines and handling marks in the right field. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1695, for \$2.60.

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1847 HALF DOLLAR





1532. 1847, Gem Proof. A superb, incredibly beautiful coin, virtually equal to the 1842 Proof offered earlier. The strike is 100% full and the coin has a square edge and a partial wire rim that is very high along the upper obverse. There is one tiny mark on Liberty's left arm just below the elbow and a few very light hairlines under the toning, but the coin is otherwise nearly pristine. The toning is superb, a blend of deep blue and violet with highlights of russet and gold. There are a few small lint marks on the reverse near the eagle's head. There are also some tiny die rust pits on the 1 in the date, including a larger one at the very top of the numeral. All of the Proofs of this date that I have seen have this characteristic and it is probably diagnostic of Proof 1847 Half Dollars. The rightmost vertical stripe in the shield reaches the top horizontal bar. The eye appeal of this specimen is extraordinary and it ranks as one of the two finest Proof 1847 Half Dollars that I have seen along with the Floyd Starr specimen. This coin was purchased by JJP from the 1946 ANA sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery, Lot 827, for \$42.50.

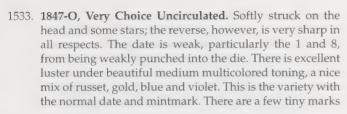
The Proof 1847 Half Dollar is an extreme rarity, but it is one of the two most often available Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollars of the 1840's along with the 1846. There have been a number of appearances of this date in Proof at auction, but, of course, many of these have represented reappearances of the same coins. I have been able to identify ten specimens that I believe to be different, although even on this list there may be one or more duplications and, of course, there is always the possibility that others exist that are not on this list at all.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; 1946 ANA sale: 827; Adolph Friedman; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1940; John H. Clapp; H.P. Smith: 687.
- 4. Norweb: 3147; Thomas L. Elder.
- 5. Don Kagin; John Work Garrett (1976): 210; Randall: 400.
- 6. Floyd Starr: 548; J.G. MacAllister (1938); George Earle: 2991.
- 7. Reed Hawn (1993): 688; John G. Halsell, Jr.: 677; Reed Hawn (1973): 162; Empire: 1380.
- 8. 1975 ANA sale: 575; R.E. Cox, Jr.: 1913; Gustav Lichtenfels: 2826; Virgil Brand.
- 9. Stack's 3/65: 451; "World's Greatest Collection": 289; F.C.C. Boyd.
- 10. Terrell: 1859; Armand Champa: 889.

The first eight coins on this list are definitely distinct specimens, but it is possible that Nos. 9 and 10 are the same coin. There is also a specimen of the 1847/6 variety called Proof. I have seen this coin on several occasions and do not consider it a Proof, but some do.

VERY CHOICE 1847-O HALF DOLLAR







and hairlines, but nothing really serious, and the coin is extremely attractive overall. This is a relatively common coin in grades below Uncirculated, but mint state examples, especially Choice ones, are really quite rare. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 1223, for \$15.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1848 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only 5-6 Specimens Known



1534. **1848, Gem Proof.** This is a magnificent coin, equal in quality and beauty to the 1847 and almost as choice as the virtually perfect 1842. Like the 1847, it is absolutely fully struck with bold stars, head, and foot as well as a sharp square edge and wire rim. The toning is superb, a beautiful light iridescent blend of greenish-gold and blue with a trace of russet and violet. There are a few faint hairlines in the right obverse field in addition to a few



trivial lines and tiny planchet imperfections "as made" above the eagle's head. There is also one small green spot on the base at Liberty's heel. This Proof 1848 Half Dollar is significantly superior to the Eliasberg specimen which is the only other example of this issue sold at auction in the past quarter of a century. JJP purchased this coin from Wayte Raymond's Newcomb II sale in 1945, Lot 859, for \$41.

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1534 continued

The Wiley-Bugert reference states that, "Less than four (are) known" of this issue, which is another way of saying that there are three or fewer specimens known. However, there appear to be at least five or six specimens in existence. Following is a list of those I have been able to identify.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Newcomb II: 859.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1944; John H. Clapp; H.P. Smith: 689.
- 4. Paramount's Rare Coin List #11 (October 1975); Reed Hawn (1973): 165; Lester Merkin 2/71: 752; Empire: 1383; R.T. McPherson: 933; 1949 ANA sale: 1505; Adolph Friedman.

1535. **1848-O**, Almost Uncirculated. Well struck except at the top of Liberty's head. Light gold and blue-green toning

5. Armand Champa: 890.

6. "World's Greatest Collection": 294; F.C.C. Boyd; Col. E.H.R. Green.

It is possible, even likely, that the last specimen listed is a duplication of one of the other examples in this list, most likely No. 4 or No. 5. If it is a duplication, then there are only five specimens accounted for, but if it is a distinct coin, then there are six. Of course, there is also always the possibility that one or more others examples exist that are not listed here. For example, the Parmelee and Stickney specimens are not specifically included here, and although I think they have reappeared in the above list, they possibly could be additional specimens.

covers frosty surfaces that are rather lackluster and have considerable friction, hairlines and minor marks.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1849 HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only Five Specimens Known



1536. 1849, Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with sharp stars that have all of their radial lines, a full head and foot on Miss Liberty, and boldly defined feathers and talons on the eagle. The edge is sharp and square and there is a wire rim around most of the obverse and reverse. This brilliantly lustrous Proof has beautiful toning, light gold in the centers turning to deeper iridescent blue, russet, violet and greenish-gold at the rims. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, none of which is more than minimally noticeable, and there are no contact marks or other problems. Most of those few hairlines present are located in the right obverse field and the reverse is extremely high quality; in fact, the coin has the overall appearance and eye appeal of a Gem. There is a triangular die lump at the top of the 1 of the date, and the last white stripe of the eagle's shield is filled. There are also several raised die scratches in the next to last white stripe. Purchased from Paramount International Coin Corp's. 1967 Grand Central Sale, Lot 1017, for \$550.



Like all of the Proof Half Dollars of the 1840's, the 1849 is a great rarity, about on a par with the Proofs of 1841, 1842, 1843 and 1848. It is definitely more rare than the Proofs of 1846 and 1847, but it seems to be a little less rare than the Proofs of 1840, 1844 and 1845. These rarity differences are minute, however, since we are discussing Proof coins which range in total population from only 4-12 pieces depending on the date. Following is a list of the known Proof 1849 Half Dollars.

- 1. **John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;** Paramount 1967 Grand Central sale: 1017.
- 2. David W. Akers; James A. Stack: 453.
- 3. Ted Hicks; David W. Akers; John Work Garrett (1976): 214; Randall: 409.
- 4. Floyd Starr: 549; "World's Greatest Collection": 296; F.C.C. Boyd.
- 5. Louis Eliasberg: 1947; John H. Clapp.

A few other specimens have appeared at auction in the past century or so, including Lorin Parmelee (1890): 1201, Matthew Stickney (1907): 1793 and George Earle (1912): 2997. It is more than likely that these three coins have reappeared in the above listing of five examples, but it is always possible that one or more of them is a distinct specimen.

RARE AND VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1849 HALF DOLLAR



1537. **1849, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike, although there is only a trace of mirror surface in the shield. This coin is very well struck with sharp stars, head and foot of Liberty, although there is not the same level of definition that is present on the preceding Proof. The toning on this piece is superb, a light to medium reddish-gold, violet and blue. There are a few minor marks and hairlines in the fields, but overall the coin is very choice and attractive and it ranks as one of the finest, if not the very finest, Uncirculated 1849 Half Dollars that I have seen. All of the numerals in the date show signs of doubling and/or possible repunching. Purchased from R. Green of Chicago on 7/5/49 as a Proof for \$67.50.



For a number of years, I owned two Proofs of this date (I still own the James A. Stack coin) while JJP owned the Proof in the preceding lot plus this coin which he also considered to be a Proof. On several occasions we compared and discussed our specimens and laughed about having four of the six or so known specimens between us. It was not until I began cataloguing this collection, however, that I closely examined this specimen for the first time and recognized that it is a business strike rather than a Proof, although it is certainly a rather deceptive one, as are a number of examples of the Philadelphia Mint issues of the late 1840's, especially those dated 1847, 1848 and 1849. Even though this is not a true Proof, it is a wonderful coin that should be of great interest to the Liberty Seated Half Dollar specialist.

1538. **1849-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Weakly struck on some stars as well as the head of Liberty; the date is weakly impressed into the die. Probably cleaned, now a dull medium violet, gold and blue color. The fields are fairly clean with light to moderate hairlines and only a few minor

marks. The obverse die is heavily rusted, most noticeable on Liberty's gown and neck, as well as in the shield and on the rock. JJP purchased this coin for \$3.55, date of purchase and seller unknown.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE PROOF 1850 HALF DOLLAR





Lot 1539

POSSIBLY UNIQUE PROOF 1850 HALF DOLLAR





1539. 1850, Very Choice Proof. Generally well struck with a sharp square edge and fully mirrorlike fields. There is some weakness on the figure of Liberty and the arrow feathers on the reverse, but Liberty's head, foot and all the obverse stars are very sharp. There are no striations in the field as on most so-called Proofs (cf. the Eliasberg coin, Lot 1949), but there are some lines on Liberty that were not struck out in the minting process, appearing similar to adjustment marks. The most obvious one bisects the obverse, but they are all now effectively covered by the toning. There is also a tiny planchet imperfection on the left arm just above Liberty's wrist. The coin is otherwise very nearly "as struck" except for the addition over the last 148 years of superb light to medium reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. The reverse is absolutely spectacular, as superb and flawless, in fact, as the reverse of the 1842. The obverse is less scintillating, but it is still very high quality. Between Liberty's head and the pole there is a "water spot" that is mentioned only for identification purposes and completeness of description since it does not constitute a defect, nor is it at all detracting. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, for \$55.50.

It is difficult to get an accurate picture of the true rarity of this date in Proof. Based on the number of specimens that have been called Proofs and the comments by most experts in the field, there would seem to be somewhere between 4 and 6 Proofs known of the 1850 Half Dollar. Most of those have been described as having a recut 0 in the date like Landau: 580 and Reed Hawn: 171 as well as the aforementioned Eliasberg coin. However, all of the alleged "Proofs" of this Recut 0 variety that I have examined have been prooflike business

strikes and all had light striations in the fields. This Pittman specimen is the only 1850 Half Dollar that I have ever seen that I feel reasonably confident declaring to be a Proof, although some may also consider this to be a prooflike business strike. Furthermore, other examples obviously have their supporters as Proofs. I am not certain whether other legitimate Proofs exist of this date, but I am fairly positive that the Recut 0 examples are not true Proofs. The DuPont specimen in 1954 was described as a "Perfect brilliant proof", and it may have been one; the first of the two "World's Greatest Collection" examples (Lot 300) may have been a legitimate Proof as well. It seems reasonable to expect that more examples exist than just this one coin, but it is worth noting that the great Mickley, Winsor, Stickney and Allenburger Collections, which contained perhaps the most complete selections of Proofs ever offered for sale at public auction, all failed to have this issue in Proof. The H.P. Smith Collection sale in 1906 (Lot 1240) and the Peter Mougey Collection sale in 1910 (Lot 1275) had specimens called Proofs in assembled sets, but it still must be considered at least a possibility that this coin is unique. It does not match up with respect to the dies to any other 1850 that I have examined, although I do not claim to be the final word on such matters. The 1 is close to the denticles and lower than the other numerals which slope up significantly to the right. The 1 is also tipped ever-so-slightly left and appears to be misplaced with respect to the other three numerals. If other Proof 1850 Half Dollars are out there somewhere, I would certainly like to know about them. I think it is unlikely that different varieties exist of this issue in Proof and, if this supposition is correct, that would eliminate the "World's Greatest Collection": 300 coin as a possibility since it was struck from different dies than the Pittman coin. That leaves the DuPont specimen as the most likely candidate to be a second known Proof since, as I have stated, I do not believe that any of the Recut 0 variety specimens are true Proofs. This is another situation where we actually know very little about the Proofs of a given date, and it shows just how much additional research is needed in the area of U.S. Proof coinage.

1540. **1850-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; double punched mintmark. Medium gray and gold toning, somewhat darker around the devices. The surfaces

are rather dull and lackluster and have light hairlines and marks. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, Lot 1700, for \$2.50.

SUPERB 1851 HALF DOLLAR

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



1541. **1851, Gem Uncirculated.** This is a superb coin, one of the prettiest coins from the standpoint of toning in the entire Pittman Collection. It is very sharply struck except on a few of the obverse stars. It has full frosty mint luster and gorgeous multicolored toning, medium reddish-gold and russet in the centers turning to violet, blue and greenishgold at the borders. Under the toning, there are just a few trivial marks, and the overall eye appeal of the coin is absolutely first-rate. This is almost certainly the finest known 1851 Half Dollar and is distinctly finer than the



Eliasberg specimen which was described as, "Probably the finest known". Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 91st sale, 2/15/46, Lot 809, for \$7.50.

Only 200,750 pieces of this issue were minted. It is usually only available in circulated condition, and any mint state 1851 Half Dollar is rare. At the Choice Uncirculated level and above, the 1851 is very rare, more so than the 1850 and the much lower mintage 1852. The Pittman coin offered here will be a revelation to specialists in this series; its beauty and quality cannot be overstated.





1542. **1851-O, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and fully frosty with lustrous, attractive medium reddish-gold toning highlighted with a trace of violet. There are some minor marks and hairlines in the fields, but this coin is very attractive overall. Purchased on 1/19/55 from F.K. Saab for \$6.





1543. **1852, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned at one time, now an irregular light to medium reddish-gold color with some multicolored highlights near the border. Very sharply struck with partially prooflike surfaces under the toning.

There are many light hairlines in the fields and a few noticeable marks, especially to the left of the date by the base and around the eagle's beak. Not as unattractive as the detailed description makes it sound and really a very presentable example of this scarce, low mintage issue. Only 77,130 pieces were minted. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 89th sale, 9/29/45, Lot 390, for \$11.50.





1544. 1852-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Prooflike. Sharply struck with full head and foot; all stars are bold and have full radial lines. Die scratches or file marks are present near the denticles above ME in AMERICA. This coin was probably cleaned in the past and now has mottled blue, gold and russet toning. There are not many marks under the toning, but there are quite a few light hairlines. The Wiley-Bugert reference notes that this issue is, "The scarcest O mint, excluding some of the early rare varieties. Underrated. Very few mint state examples are known." Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1701, for \$6.75.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1853 ARROWS & RAYS HALF DOLLAR





1545. 1853, Arrows and Rays. Choice Uncirculated. Closed 5. This coin gives the initial impression of being a significantly higher grade specimen than it really is. However, close inspection shows a few hairlines in the right obverse field and some unfortunate slide marks on the breast, arm and leg of Liberty from the coin having spent many years in a Wayte Raymond holder. It is fully struck with outstanding luster and attractive reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold peripheral toning. Struck

from very heavily clashed dies. Although very popular and desirable as a one-year-only type coin, this issue is actually one of the most common Half Dollars of the era in mint state and quite a few Choice and Very Choice examples are around, although surprisingly few Gems. JJP purchased this coin early in his collecting career from New Netherlands Coin Co.'s 18th sale, 10/3/44, Lot 549, for \$5.75.

MINT STATE 1853-O ARROWS & RAYS HALF DOLLAR





1546. 1853-O, Arrows and Rays. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with only a few rather flat stars; the head and foot of Liberty are nearly full. Frosty, lustrous surfaces with attractive medium multicolored toning, mostly shades of russet and bluegreen. There are some very minor marks and hairlines in the fields under the toning, but nothing really serious. The luster is very good and the overall appearance of the

coin is sufficiently excellent that many will grade this coin solidly in the Choice Uncirculated category. This issue is much more rare in all grades than the 1853 Philadelphia Mint issue; it is really very scarce, if not rare, in full mint state, especially at the Choice level and higher. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1053, for \$7.25.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1854 ARROWS HALF DOLLAR





1547. 1854, Arrows At Date. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Softly struck on the head and the top stars. The deep mirror fields have a number of light hairlines, but no obvious contact marks. There are, however, a few tiny lint marks resulting from the wiping of the dies with a cloth immediately prior to striking. There is one tiny contact mark on Liberty's face and a long, but faint, hairline in the left obverse field by the first four stars. Some of the apparent hairlines in the fields were actually present in the planchet at the time of striking and run under stars and devices. The toning is somewhat irregular with a blotchy russet coloration on the seated figure of Liberty and on the eagle, lighter reddish-gold toning elsewhere. There is also a touch of violet and blue-green at the rims. Purchased by JJP from a Wayte Raymond sale, 2/18/47, Lot 554, for \$61. Earlier, the coin was in the famous George H. Earle Collection sale in 1912, Lot 3008.

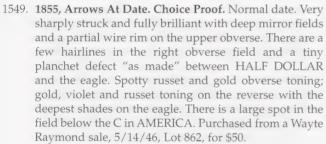
In Proof, the 1854 Half Dollar is extremely rare, as are all the Proof silver coins of 1854 with the exception of the Silver Dollar which is merely rare. Beginning with this year, Proof coin production increased substantially under the direction of James Ross Snowden and it is estimated that as many as 30-40 silver and copper proof sets were issued; apparently, Proof Half Dollars were struck only for inclusion in those sets. Although the Wiley-Bugert reference indicates that, "Less than 6 (are) known", and most auction cataloguers have also indicated that only 5 or 6 Proofs are known of this issue, the number extant is actually considerably greater than that, and I would place the number in the range of 10-12 pieces. By actual count, I have seen eight different 1854 Half Dollars in Proof and there are sufficient other auction listings of Proofs that I cannot match up with the specimens I have seen to indicate that my estimate of 10-12 pieces is reasonable, possibly even a little on the low side.

1548. **1854-O, Arrows At Date. Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state and likely to be so graded by many. Sharply struck; irregular russet and greenish-gold toning. Planchet defect across the left side of the gown, another

defect above the eagle's head. Subdued luster, minor hairlines and handling marks in the fields. Numerous fine hairline die breaks on both sides. Purchased from Wayte Raymond in 1946 for \$2.25.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1855 HALF DOLLAR







The Proof 1855 Half Dollar is very rare, but not as rare as the 1854. However, the difference in their rarity is not as great as most cataloguers and references would lead one to believe. As of January 1998, the grading services had actually graded fewer Proof 1855 Half Dollars than Proof 1854 Half Dollars. But, despite their value as research and information tools, population reports can be often misleading due to the multiple resubmission of pieces, particularly rare and valuable ones, in order to obtain the highest grade possible. Still, in my experience, the 1855 Half Dollar is not as rare as the 1854 in Proof, and I estimate the number known at somewhere between 15 and 20 pieces, a number which includes both the normal date Proofs and the overdate 1855/4 Proofs.

BEAUTIFUL 1855-O HALF DOLLAR



1550. 1855-O, Arrows At Date. Very Choice Uncirculated, nearly in the Gem category. This coin would be a solid Gem if it were not for an old abrasion on the leg that is now completely toned over in the same shades as the rest of the coin. The strike is full, and under the beautiful toning there is exceptional luster and partially prooflike surfaces. The toning is a superb medium multicolored blend of reddish-gold, pale blue, violet and greenish-gold. The fields are very clean and virtually unmarked.



The date is doubled, most noticeable on the 5's, especially the second 5 at the lower right. This is a relatively common date, but the quality and toning of this piece are decidedly uncommon. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/21/46, Lot 1665, for \$6.75. In his catalogue description, Bluestone described this as a, "Beautiful semi-proof", and noted that the, "Lower part of 55 (is) reengraved".



1551. 1855-S, Arrows At Date. Good to Very Good. Counter-stamped "J.L. Polhemus/Druggist/190 J. St. Cor. 7th/Sacramento Cal.". There is also a symbol of a mortar and pestle between the first two lines. The coin has a partial LIBERTY, but has been cleaned and now has dull surfaces and irregular medium toning. Purchased from Maurice Storck in 1954 for \$20.

J.L. Polhemus opened his drug store in Sacramento in 1849 and remained in business for the next 17 years until his death; the store continued to operate under the direction of his wife for a few years thereafter. Dr. Polhemus stamped many, if not most, coins that came through his establishment. Sometimes the stamp was horizontal, other times vertical,



but always directly on the main obverse design element, unlike the "Houck's Panacea" counterstamp which was always stamped in front of the face in the field. Although Polhemus stamped a substantial number of coins, including many foreign issues, most of the U.S. issues bearing his stamp that are known today are Quarters. Half Dollars are considerably more rare, but not as rare as the Silver Dollar and Double Eagle, both of which are unique with this counterstamp. Of the dozen or so Half Dollars known, this may be the only one, or at most one of two, with the host coin dated 1855. When I first announced the sale of the John Jay Pittman Collection, in fairly short order I received at least a half dozen calls inquiring whether the collection contained any J.L. Polhemus counterstamped coins; the answer, of course, was, "Yes", and this piece is the best of them.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1856 HALF DOLLAR



1552. **1856**, **Gem Proof**. This is an absolutely splendid coin with a full strike, a sharp square edge, and partial wire rim. There is a tiny die rust spot on the 1 of the date near the top, and a larger die rust spot in the field by the 13th star; yet another is on Liberty's left thigh. The three elements of the leftmost vertical stripe in the eagle's shield are weak and thin from die polishing, leaving an area of mirror brilliance at the top of that stripe. This is a distinguishing characteristic of all Proof Half Dollars of this year (no business strikes have been seen with this characteristic) and the same reverse die was used to mint the



Proof Half Dollars of 1857. Purchased by JJP from a Wayte Raymond sale, 5/14/46, Lot 863, for \$45.

The 1856 Half Dollar is very rare in Proof, nearly in the same rarity class as the 1855, but less valuable and desirable than the 1855 due to the latter's two-year-only type coin status. Based on the number of specimens with which I am familiar, I would place the number known in the range of 20-25 pieces, and this Pittman specimen is as choice as I can recall seeing. It is significantly finer than the Eliasberg specimen, and it is also superior to the Norweb coin, two of the relatively few nice Proofs of this date that have appeared at auction in the past 15-20 years.

- 1553. **1856-O, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; beautiful medium greenish-gold, blue, violet, and reddish-gold toning. A few light contact marks in the left obverse field by Liberty's arm as well as some other trivial marks and light hairlines in the fields. Purchased from George Bauer in 1945 for \$1.90.
- 1554. A pair of circulated San Francisco Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollars, including **1856-S**, **Very Fine**. Dull medium toning, several prominent edge nicks. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 606, for \$6.25; and **1858-S**, **Very Fine to Extremely Fine**. Medium blue and gold toning. Sharply struck, small gouge in field to the right of the mintmark. Two pieces.

RARE PROOF 1857 HALF DOLLAR





1555. **1857, Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and full detail on the stars as well as the head and foot of Miss Liberty. Mostly brilliant, but with a hint of light golden toning in addition to attractive multicolored peripheral toning on the obverse. Moderately hairlined on the obverse, but the reverse has only light hairlines. Struck from the same reverse die as the Proof 1856 Half Dollar with the distinguishing mirror

area at the top of the three vertical elements in the left-most stripe in the shield. Rare, but less so than any of the preceding Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollars; approximately 30-40 Proofs of this date are estimated to exist. Purchased from a Wayte Raymond sale, 2/18/47, Lot 557, for \$37.50. Earlier, the coin was in the famous William H. Woodin Collection sale in 1911 as Lot 291.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1857-O HALF DOLLAR





1556. **1857-O, Choice Uncirculated.** This is the very rare variety with the errant date in the rock directly above 57. The coin is frosty and very lustrous with a sharp strike and beautiful natural toning, mostly reddish-gold but with electric blue and violet at the borders. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but virtually no handling marks, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. The Wiley-Bugert Liberty Seated Half Dollar reference indicates that this is a R-8 variety in mint state,

meaning that at the time of the publication of their work the authors were aware of only 2 or 3 pieces of this variety; obviously, they could not have been familiar with this JJP specimen which may be the finest known example. JJP purchased this coin from the 1948 ANA sale, Lot 563, for \$5. He clearly recognized that this was not a common date and noted on his coin envelope, "This coin is scarcer than catalogue value indicates".

1557. **1857-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Dull medium gray and russet toning with some deeper blue-green shades. Several small rim abrasions and a prominent nick on Liberty's neck below the ear. There are also quite a few

light marks and hairlines in the fields. This is a scarce date in any condition. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 607, for \$21.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1858 HALF DOLLAR



eral toning. Since Proofs were minted in much greater numbers beginning in 1858, the Proof Half Dollar of this year is not nearly as rare as the earlier issues from 1840-1857. Estimates vary widely on the number struck, but it was probably at least several hundred pieces and perhaps as many as 100-125 still exist today. Purchased from

a Wayte Raymond sale, 2/18/47, Lot 558, for \$27.50.

1558. 1858, Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with a wire rim all around on both sides; it is very high in places, especially at the top of both the obverse and reverse. The deep mirror fields have a few light hairlines, but nothing significant; they are also essentially free of handling marks of any kind. The obverse toning is beautiful, a multicolored iridescent blend of reddish-gold, violet, and blue. The reverse is mostly brilliant with light reddish-gold periph-

1559. **1858-O**, **Uncirculated**. Generally well struck except on Liberty's head and the right stars. The surfaces are lustrous and have irregular, somewhat spotty toning in shades of

reddish-gold, greenish-gold and blue. There are numerous bagmarks, abrasions and hairlines in the fields. Purchased by JJP from Wayte Raymond on 6/16/47 for \$2.25.

FANTASTIC GEM UNCIRCULATED 1859-O HALF DOLLAR



1560. **1859-O**, **Gem Uncirculated**. This is an absolutely fabulous coin, one of the two finest business strike Liberty Seated Half Dollars in the John Jay Pittman Collection along with the 1851 offered earlier. This coin is fully struck with sharp head and stars and all details on the eagle boldly defined. Covering the frosty, pristine surfaces is absolutely superb medium multicolored toning with autumn leaves shades of reddish-gold and greenish-gold highlighted with traces of blue and violet. There are a couple of tiny marks on the coin, including one microscopic one on the cheek, but the fields are



immaculate. Overall, this coin is as attractive as a Liberty Seated Half Dollar could possibly be. I believe this coin to be the finest known example of the issue or at least tied for that honor with one or two other specimens, including the James Pryor-Herbert Bergen coin. Although generally considered a common issue, the 1859-O is actually quite rare above Choice Uncirculated, and true Gems are very rare. This coin represents one of JJP's earliest auction purchases having been acquired from George Bauer's sale XII, 5/20/44, Lot 580, for \$2.60.

- 1561. **1859-S, Extremely Fine.** Large S Mintmark. Well struck with partially prooflike surfaces and medium multicolored toning that has shades of violet, reddish-gold, greenish-gold and blue. The coin is a little lackluster from being cleaned and there are numerous scratches and marks in the fields and on the rims. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 610, for \$16.
- 1562. **1860, Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with very brilliant mirrorlike surfaces that have numerous light hairlines. Violet and blue-green toning at the borders. Acquired from Kreisberg-Schulman's "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/62, Lot 1179, for \$75.





- 1563. **1860-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike. Sharply struck except for the right obverse stars which do not have full definition. The toning is superb, a blend of medium to deep greenish-gold, blue-green, violet and reddish-gold. At first glance, this coin looks like a solid Gem, but close inspection reveals there are a number of light hairlines and marks in the fields. This is the variety with the Type II reverse with the tops of L and F in HALF well apart. Obtained by JJP in the mid-1940's for \$1.50, date of purchase and seller unknown.
- 1564. A group of three San Francisco Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollars, including the following: 1860-S, Fine to Very Fine. Dull medium reddish-gold and violet toning. Sharply struck. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 612, for \$3.50; 1864-S, Very Fine. Medium gold, blue and violet toning. Dull surfaces. Acquired at the same sale as the preceding as Lot 623 for \$4; and 1871-S, Extremely Fine. Dull medium gray and reddish-gold toning. Purchased for \$2.50, date of purchase and seller unknown. Three pieces.
- 1565. **1861-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Semi-prooflike surfaces beneath medium multicolored toning that features shades of greenish-gold, violet and reddish-gold. The reverse is more deeply toned than the obverse. Generally well struck, although a little weak on the head and a few stars. There is a touch of friction on the breast and leg of Liberty, but this coin is actually quite close to mint state. Marks and hairlines are minimal in number and minor in nature. Purchased in the 1940's for \$1.60.
- 1566. **1861-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck. Blotchy medium reddish-gold toning with some darker blue-green shades in and around the letters and stars. JJP purchased this coin from B.A. Seaby of London, England, for \$5, date of purchase unknown.

- 1567. A group of five S Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollars, including 1862-S, 1863-S, 1865-S, 1867-S and 1869-S. All of the coins grade at least Very Fine, but all have been cleaned; they now have varying degrees and shades of dull toning. They also have considerable friction, marks and hairlines on their surfaces. Five pieces.
- 1568. **1864**, **Proof.** 470 Proofs minted. Fully struck. Mostly brilliant, but with areas of cloudiness as well as a trace of light golden toning. Moderately hairlined throughout the fields. Purchased from Kreisberg-Schulman's "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/62, Lot 1185, for \$70.
- 1569. A pair of S Mint Half Dollars, including 1866-S, No Motto, Very Good to Fine. Cleaned, now a dull russet color with blue-green highlights around the devices; and 1866-S, With Motto, Extremely Fine. Very sharply struck. Light to medium gold, russet and blue-green toning. JJP purchased these coins from George Bauer in 1946 and paid \$5 for the No Motto and \$5.75 for the With Motto coin. Two pieces.
- **1570. 1868-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; not much luster beneath light reddish-gold toning. Prominent edge nick at the 4th star and a number of light handling marks and hairlines in the fields. Purchased from Harold Whiteneck, 1/31/55, for \$6.





- 1571. **1870-CC, Very Good.** Cleaned, now a dull medium gray and gold color. This is a very scarce and desirable issue even in the low grade offered here. Purchased from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/13/57, Lot 1256, for \$32, there noted as having a, "Nearly fine obverse, better than fine reverse".
- 1572. **1870-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with a partial wire rim on the obverse. Dull medium russet and violet toning with a dash of greenish-gold. Not many marks, but there are some light hairlines on the lackluster surfaces. Obviously cleaned at one time. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 641, for \$7.75.
- 1573. **1871-CC, Good to Very Good.** Most of L and TY of LIBER-TY show. Medium gray and gold color. Numerous marks and hairlines, as one would expect on a coin in this condition, but this is still a very attractive specimen for such a low grade piece. Purchased from an Al Overton sale, 1/20/55, Lot 893, for \$11.25.

1574. 1872-CC, Fine. Cleaned, now a dull medium russet, violet and blue color. No serious problems, just the marks and hairlines one would naturally associate with the grade. Purchased from Imperial Coin Co. (Ben Stack) for \$17.50 in the mid-1950's.





1575. **1872-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. Sharply struck with beautiful medium violet, blue and golden toning. Very lustrous surfaces under the toning and there are relatively few contact marks and hairlines on the coin. The reverse is fully mint state and there is just a trace of friction on the highest points of the obverse. This is the variety with the small wide mintmark noted as "Rare" in Breen's Encyclopedia. It is Wiley-Bugert variety 101 which is rated as Low Rarity-8 in mint state, meaning that only a few examples were known to the authors at the time of the publication of their excellent reference work on the series. Purchased by JJP from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 649, for \$16.75.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1873 NO ARROWS HALF DOLLAR





- 1576. **1873, No Arrows, Closed 3. Very Choice Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and very attractive light reddish-gold toning. A few very faint hairlines are visible, but the overall eye appeal of the coin is excellent. Purchased from Stack's Howard Egolf sale, 5/5/61, Lot 1108, for \$45.
- 1577. **1873-CC, No Arrows. Very Good.** Small mintmark. Warm gray and gold toning. Prominent nick on the base directly above the 8 in the date. Actually, this coin is surprisingly attractive for a coin in this low grade. This is a very scarce issue in any condition, roughly comparable to the 1871-CC. Purchased by JJP for \$3.25, date of purchase and seller unknown.





1578. **1873**, **Arrows At Date. Proof.** 550 Proofs minted. Fully struck and mirrorlike. Light to moderate hairlines throughout the fields. The toning is a light russet color with blue and violet shades at the borders. Like the No Arrows Proof of the same date offered earlier, this piece was purchased at the Howard Egolf sale (Stack's 5/5/61), Lot 1111, for \$155.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1873-CC ARROWS HALF DOLLAR



1579. **1873-CC, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Large mintmark. A lustrous, sharply struck specimen with very attractive medium russet, gold and blue-green toning. Under the toning, there are only a few light hairlines and minor marks. The reverse is fully Choice Uncirculated, the obverse very nearly so. This large mintmark variety is slightly more rare than the small CC variety. A fine hairline die break runs from the left side of H in HALF through the bottom leaves on the olive branch to the U in UNITED. Purchased by JJP from a George Bauer sale in the 1940's, Lot 361, for \$22.50.

The 1873-CC With Arrows Half Dollar is a very scarce issue in any condition, including all circulated grades. In mint state, this issue is a definite rarity and the Pittman specimen offered here is undoubtedly one of the finest examples known; no more than a handful of other specimens are equivalent or superior to it in terms of overall quality.

1580. **1873-S, Arrows At Date. Very Fine.** Cleaned, now with irregular medium blue, russet and violet toning. This is a very scarce and underrated issue even in this grade. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 652, for \$10.25.





1581. **1874-CC**, Arrows At Date. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck, medium blue, violet and greenish-gold toning. Light to moderate contact marks and hairlines in the fields and on the devices. This is a very scarce issue in all grades and a rare one in grades above EF. This issue is unique among the With Arrows Half Dollars of 1873 and 1874 in that the arrows at the date angle up slightly; on all the other issues of this type, the arrows are more or less level. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1743, for \$11.50.

MINT STATE 1874-S HALF DOLLAR





- 1582. **1874-S, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Minute mintmark. Sharply struck with very attractive sunset toning, medium russet and violet with some deeper blue highlights. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few light marks and hairlines. Some fine die breaks are noted on the reverse through the denomination and also through the arrowheads. In mint state, this is a rare issue and relatively few exist that are finer than this Pittman specimen. Purchased by JJP from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 658, for \$19.
- 1583. **1875-CC**, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**. Weakly struck on the figure of Liberty (head, breast and thigh) giving the appearance of more wear than there really is. Cleaned, now with blotchy medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning. There are many hairlines under the toning as well as quite a few marks. Unfortunately, there is also very little luster. Purchased from the 1952 ANA sale, Lot 369, for \$5.





1584. 1875-S, Choice Uncirculated. Very small mintmark, repunched or doubled at the left along the entire upper curve of the S and at the lower serif. This is listed in the Wiley-Bugert reference as WB-102, and the authors indicate that they consider it a Rarity-7 variety in mint state. This specimen in very sharply struck and extremely attractive, particularly the reverse which is Gem quality. The toning is a medium multicolored blend of greenish-gold, russet, blue and violet. The obverse has some minor handling marks in the fields and a few on the seated figure, all pretty much concealed by the attractive toning. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1892, for \$2.35.





- 1585. **1876-CC**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Medium size mintmark. Sharply struck with lustrous semi-prooflike surfaces. The obverse is much lower quality than the reverse and has light to medium reddish-gold and blue toning with a touch of violet at the rim. The reverse is Gem quality and extremely beautiful with a medium iridescent blend of violet, reddish-gold, blue and greenish-gold toning. The reverse is essentially flawless, but the obverse has some light to moderate abrasions, including one heavy abrasion in the field by the 10th star. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1893, for \$2.60.
- 1586. 1876-S, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Lovely sunset toning over lustrous satiny surfaces; the colors are warm reddish-gold, greenish-gold and violet. There are a few light hairlines and handling marks in the right obverse field, but the reverse is quite clean. Generally well struck, although there is a slight weakness on the head of Liberty. JJP paid \$2.25 for this coin, but no additional information is available.
- 1587. **1877-CC, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; probably cleaned, now with dull medium multicolored toning and many light hairlines and marks. Acquired for \$2.75.

- 1588. **1877-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Probably cleaned at one time, now with light irregular reddish-gold toning and rather numerous light hairlines and marks in the fields. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1894, for \$1.60.
- 1589. **1878-CC, Good.** Well worn with the rims wearing into the stars and tops of the letters. A couple of sharp edge nicks. Probably cleaned, now with dull medium multicolored toning. Purchased from the Penn-Ohio 20th Anniversary Convention sale, 11/15/58, Lot 433, for \$21.

VERY RARE 1878-S HALF DOLLAR





1590. **1878-S, Very Good to Fine.** LI and TY in LIBERTY are visible, plus parts of the other letters. Undoubtedly cleaned long ago, now with medium toning, mostly reddish-gold. Rather dull and lifeless, but there are no really serious marks or defects, and certainly fewer of them than are usually seen on a coin in this grade. This is the rarest Liberty Seated Half Dollar from this mint and it

has long been regarded as one of the rarest of all Liberty Seated Half Dollar issues. In the Wiley-Bugert reference on this series, the authors estimate that, "The total population of the 1878-S is most likely at least 60 pieces". Purchased by JJP from a French's sale, 2/14/59, Lot 364, for \$275.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1879 HALF DOLLAR





1591. **1879, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with prooflike fields, excellent luster and beautiful toning, a blend of reddish-gold in the centers turning to deeper blue and violet at the borders. There are a few light hairlines and handling marks in the obverse fields, but the reverse is Gem quality and unusually beautiful due to the excellent toning. This is a popular, low mintage issue of which only 4,800 business strikes were minted along with 1,100 Proofs. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 96th sale, 4/19/47, Lot 1895, for \$2.75.

1592. **1882, Proof.** 1,140 Proofs minted. Cleaned, now fairly heavily hairlined. There is light multicolored toning at the periphery. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 816, for \$230.





1593. **1885, Choice Proof.** 930 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful peripheral toning that is a blend of reddish-gold, blue-green and violet. The centers of the coin are very light reddish-gold. There are some minor hairlines in the fields, but no contact marks, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 819, for \$280.





- 1594. **1892-O**, **Barber Type. Uncirculated.** Normal mintmark. Softly struck in places, especially on the eagle, giving the false impression of wear when there really is none. Attractive, natural, warm reddish-gold and blue-green toning. A few light hairlines are present, but no marks of consequence. This is a scarce issue in mint state and one of the few Barber Half Dollars that is relatively valuable even in circulated condition. Purchased by JJP from James Kelly's 1949 CSNS sale for \$10.50.
- 1595. **1893-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. Fairly well struck for the issue and attractively toned with beautiful light reddish-gold toning that turns to deeper shades at the border. There are some light hairlines on both sides, including several on the face and neck of Liberty; however, the heaviest hairlines appear in the field in front of Liberty's face. Some fine hairline die breaks are noted on both sides. A rather attractive specimen despite the hairlines. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/6/48, Lot 612, for \$8.75.
- 1596. **1894-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck. Cleaned at one time, now with light reddish-gold toning and violet highlights. Moderate bag marks and hairlines and not much luster. Purchased for \$3.35, date of purchase and seller not known.
- 1597. **1894-S**, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Cleaned, moderate hairlines and bag marks. Just a trace of light golden toning. The reverse is close to mint state, but there is a lot of friction on the obverse.





1598. **1895-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Frosty and very sharply struck for the issue. Mostly brilliant but with just a touch of light golden toning. Broad, slightly rolled rims as usually seen on O Mint Barber Half Dollars of this era. There are a few light hairlines as well as several tiny bag marks, but this is really quite an attractive example of this scarce issue despite its relative lack of original mint luster. Purchased by JJP from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 1110, for \$29.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE 1896-O HALF DOLLAR





1599. 1896-O, Very Choice Uncirculated, nearly in the Gem class. Unusually well struck for an 1896-O Half Dollar; in fact, I do not recall ever seeing a sharper one. Almost fully brilliant and frosty with more luster and fewer marks than the 1895-O in the preceding lot to which it is otherwise rather similar in overall appearance. Like the 1895-O, this coin has the broad rolled rims that are characteristic of O Mint Barber Half Dollars of the 1890's. There is just a hint of light golden toning on the surfaces which are very clean with only a few tiny handling marks and virtually no hairlines. A tiny die break runs from the right side of the date past the tip of the bust to the 13th star. With a little more luster, this coin would be a solid Gem; some may still grade it that high. Purchased by JJP from the same sale as the 1895-O, this as Lot 1113 for \$60.

All New Orleans Mint Barber Half Dollars are scarce in mint state and rare, or even very rare, in Gem condition. Among all O Mint Barber Half Dollars, I consider the 1896-O to be the second rarest in Gem condition after the 1892-O Micro O, although a few others such as the 1893-O, 1898-O, 1900-O, and 1901-O are fairly close to it. However, I think one would have more luck finding a Gem Uncirculated example of any of those issues than one would have locating an equivalent quality 1896-O. Furthermore, with respect to all of the 74 issues in the series, the 1896-O ranks as the third rarest issue in Gem condition after only the 1892-O Micro O and the 1904-S.





1600. 1897, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem class. 731 Proofs minted. This is a beautifully toned Proof with an especially gorgeous and nearly flawless reverse. The obverse has pale golden toning in the center and beautiful iridescent reddish-gold, violet and blue toning at the periphery. The reverse is a deep multicolored blend of the same colors plus greenish-gold. There are a few light hairlines on the obverse, both on the face and in the field in front of the face, but the overall eye appeal of this coin is spectacular. JJP purchased this coin on 5/14/46 from Wayte Raymond for \$15.

RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1897-O HALF DOLLAR





1601. 1897-O, Choice Uncirculated. Fully frosty with brilliant white surfaces that have just a hint of light golden toning; the luster is somewhat below average. A little weakly struck on the obverse on the hair around the face and on the mouth; considerably more weakly struck on the reverse, particularly on the right side of the eagle. There are a few light, scattered handling marks and hairlines, most of them on the obverse; the reverse is virtually unmarked and unhairlined. At one time, this issue was considered to be every bit as rare as the 1896-O. Today, although it is still regarded as a very scarce issue, the 1897-O is not held in the same high esteem as the 1896-O for the simple reason that the 1896-O has proven to be far more rare in all mint state grades, especially those above Choice Uncirculated. This coin was purchased at the same time as JJP acquired the 1895-O and 1896-O and some of the other O Mint Half Dollars that follow. He purchased it at Numismatic Gallery's sale of 2/10/53 as Lot 1116 for \$75, \$15 more than he paid for the higher quality 1896-O.

GEM MINT STATE 1897-S HALF DOLLAR



1602. 1897-S, Gem Uncirculated. Sharply struck with beautiful sunset toning, a slightly mottled blend of reddishgold, blue-green, violet and greenish-gold. Under the toning, there are only a few faint hairlines and minor marks and the satiny surfaces have excellent luster. The 1897-S has long been considered one of the classic rarities of the series, although in recent years, as we have gained a greater understanding of the relative rarity of the issues in this series, it has become apparent that some other issues with less "tradition" are actually more rare than the 1897-S. Nevertheless, in Gem condition, the 1897-S Half Dollar still must be considered rare and not many examples match the overall quality and attractiveness of this specimen. JJP purchased this coin from Wayte Raymond in 1946 for \$22.50.

1603. 1898-O, Uncirculated. Frosty and white with just a trace of light golden toning; below average luster. Sharply struck for an 1898-O Barber Half Dollar. Heavily hairlined on the obverse, including on the face which also has several small scratches. The surfaces of the coin have a number of light contact marks as well. Despite its problems, this coin is still desirable due to its rarity in mint state. However, this piece is not nearly as nice as the 1895-O, 1896-O and 1897-O that JJP acquired at the same time from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/10/53. This coin was Lot 1119 in that sale and JJP paid \$45 for it.

1604. 1899-O, Almost Uncirculated. Heavily hairlined, especially on the obverse. There is a dark spot in the obverse field by the 12th star and hints of light golden toning on the otherwise white frosty surfaces. The reverse is virtually Uncirculated, but the obverse has a lot of problems. Purchased from the same Numismatic Gallery auction as the O Mint Barber Half Dollars from 1895-1898, this as Lot 1122 for \$28.





1605. 1900-O, Uncirculated. Very sharply struck, most unusual for a 1900-O Barber Half Dollar. Frosty white surfaces with a hint of light golden toning. There is a very high wire rim at places on both sides of the coin, and this wire rim has some irregularities that occurred both at the time of striking and subsequently. This piece does not have a great deal of luster and it has some light hairlines on the face as well as a few contact marks on the face, neck and in the fields. With more luster, this coin would be an above average example of this scarce issue. Purchased from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/10/53, Lot 1125, for \$40.

BORDERLINE GEM 1901-O HALF DOLLAR



1606. 1901-O, Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem category. Very well struck, sharper than most examples of this issue although there is a little of the weakness where the right wing joins the shield that seems to be present on all examples of the 1901-O. The surfaces are very satiny and lustrous and are covered with attractive natural medium reddish-gold and violet toning. The reverse is easily full Gem quality, but the obverse has a few tiny marks and hairlines as well as one noticeable hairline from the mouth to the 12th star. There is a very tiny planchet depression "as made" just to the right of the ear on the face. This is a very attractive coin with eye appeal that far exceeds the norm for a 1901-O Barber Half Dollar. Purchased by JJP from F.K. Saab on 1/19/55 for \$75.

In mint state, the 1901-O Half Dollar is one of the rarest issues of the series. In the higher mint state grades, i.e. those above Choice Uncirculated, this issue is very rare and, in fact, it has had its proponents in the past as being the rarest, or at least one of the two or three rarest, issues of the entire series. This coin is finer than the Eliasberg, Norweb and Pryor specimens as well as most other examples of this issue that have been offered for sale at auction in recent years.

BEAUTIFUL MINT STATE 1902-O HALF DOLLAR



1607. 1902-O, Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem category. A really beautiful example of this rare issue with satiny surfaces, superb medium reddish-gold toning and great luster. The strike is very sharp for a 1902-O, but it still has a few areas of weakness on the reverse, including the right wing close to the shield, the talons, etc. There are some random, fine raised die scratches in the fields which are the result of extensive die polishing. There is one long vertical hairline in the right obverse field which is the only impairment that removes the coin from the Gem category. The obverse also has a couple of tiny contact marks, including one between the 10th and 11th stars. The reverse, however, is just wonderful and nearly perfect. The eye appeal of this specimen is excellent and I have seen lesser quality Barber Half Dollars called Gems, not only in auctions, but by the grading services as well. This coin was purchased from B. Max Mehl's 114th auction, 6/12/51, Lot 747, for \$22.50, there described as, "Brilliant Uncirculated. A gem coin."

Historically, this issue was always considered very scarce, but not among the rarest issues of the series. Today, however, we recognize it as one of the most important rarities of the Barber Half Dollar series, especially when well struck since many are flat and have very poor detail on both the face of Liberty and the eagle. This Pittman specimen is not at all typical of what one normally can expect to find in a 1902-O Barber Half Dollar with respect to strike and overall appearance; it is both well struck and lustrous, two important characteristics sadly lacking in most other specimens.

1608. **1903-O**, **Almost Uncirculated**. A well struck, lustrous specimen with pale reddish-gold toning and light handling marks on the face, neck and in the fields. As usual,

the reverse is relatively clean compared to the obverse. Purchased for \$7.75 sometime prior to 1950, seller unknown.

GEM PROOFLIKE 1904-O BARBER HALF DOLLAR

Possible Branch Mint Proof Or Presentation Piece





1609. 1904-O, Gem Uncirculated. Fully prooflike. Possibly a Branch Mint Proof or, at the very least, a presentation specimen of some sort. This coin is totally unlike any other 1904-O that I have ever seen; in fact, it is the only prooflike one. All of the other examples I have ever seen of this issue, including a small number of Gems and quite a few other mint state pieces, have been fully frosty, most of them weakly struck in places. This piece, however, is fully struck with the same general quality of strike and mirrorlike surfaces found on some Philadelphia Mint Proofs. The edge is sharp and square, not at all rounded as it is on most business strike Barber Half Dollars, especially O Mint issues, and the fields are not just prooflike, they are deeply mirrorlike. The toning on this piece is superb, a sunset blend of medium reddish-gold with highlights of blue and violet. There are a few light hairlines on the obverse, including a vertical hairline in front of the face that for some may remove the coin from the Gem category, but the eye appeal and general appearance of this coin are so stunning that it

does not seem realistic to grade it less than a Gem. JJP purchased this coin from a Stack's sale, 3/26/49, Lot 836, for \$16. On his envelope, he has noted that it is, "Perfect brilliant uncirculated with brilliant proof surface. Extremely rare."

There have been a few other O Mint Barber Half Dollars described as "Proofs" or presentation pieces, including examples of 1894-O, 1895-O and 1898-O. The James Pryor Collection, for example, had extraordinary prooflike examples of the 1894-O and 1898-O that were described with considerable credibility as possible Proofs or presentation pieces. I owned a similar 1894-O recently and I also recall an 1895-O from a Lester Merkin sale that was called a Proof many years ago. The remarkable 1900-O in the Dr. Thaine B. Price Collection (formerly in the Norweb Collection) also is fully prooflike and unlike any other 1900-O Half Dollar that I have seen; I described it in the Price sale as a possible presentation piece as well. However, this 1904-O is different from any of those coins and, although any or all of them may have been special presentation pieces made for an unknown occasion or important visitor or dignitary, this 1904-O looks like a real Proof with the same fabric, striking quality and mirror surfaces that are characteristic of a Philadelphia Mint Proof of the era.

1610. 1905-O, Uncirculated. Sharply struck, notably so for a 1905-O Barber Half Dollar. Frosty white surfaces with not a great deal of original mint luster. Light to moderate hairlines on the obverse as well as some light contact marks. The reverse of the coin is quite choice. This is a scarce and desirable issue in full mint state. Purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 2/10/53, Lot 1137, for \$42.





1611. 1906-D, Choice Uncirculated. Well struck on the obverse, a little weak on the reverse where the eagle's right wing joins the shield. Lustrous, satiny surfaces and very attractive medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning. The fields are very clean, but there are a few tiny marks and hairlines on the face and neck of Liberty. This is a nice original example of this scarce and rather underrated issue. Purchased by JJP for \$3.50, but no additional information is available.





sharply struck for a 1906-O Barber Half Dollar, far superior in this regard to most examples seen. The coin has irregular multicolored toning, light to medium reddishgold on the obverse highlighted with a trace of blue and violet, and deeper blue, gold and violet on the reverse. There are some light hairlines on the obverse, especially in the right field. There are also a couple of small marks on the cheek. The 1906-O Barber Half Dollar is a very scarce issue in mint state, although it is not as rare as any of the New Orleans Mint Half Dollars of this type preceding it. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 628, for \$10.25.





1613. 1907, Very Choice Proof. 575 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a broad rim, a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. The toning is a superb blend of medium to deep violet, blue-green and reddish-gold. There are a couple of faint hairlines on the coin, including one very light one across the cheek and another diagonal hairline across the mouth

towards the 8th star. There are also some light "chatter marks" on the reverse between the eagle's tail and olive branch and HALF DO(LLAR). Not quite as nice as it appears at first glance, but still very choice and quite appealing due to the excellent toning. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 629, for \$5.

MAGNIFICENT GEM 1907-D HALF DOLLAR



1614. 1907-D, Gem Uncirculated. This is a coin of extraordinary quality and beauty. It is by far the finest and prettiest Barber Half Dollar in the John Jay Pittman Collection and is, in fact, one of the finest Barber Half Dollars in existence, comparable to the best of the coins in the Dr. Thaine B. Price Collection and the Louis Eliasberg Collection, the two finest groups of Barber Half Dollars ever assembled. This coin is fully struck with satiny surfaces and superb luster under magnificent medium multicolored toning that is mostly reddish-gold but with beautiful shades of violet, blue and greenish-gold at the borders. The surfaces are essentially pristine with only a couple of microscopic marks that are entirely hidden by the toning. JJP purchased this coin from the 1953 ANA Convention sale, Lot 1050, for \$14.

Simply stated, I have never seen a 1907-D Barber Half Dollar to equal this specimen in terms of both overall technical quality and superb natural toning. The Dr. Price specimen comes close and is certainly a magnificent Gem; the Eliasberg coin is also a beauty, but those two examples, outstanding as they are, still do not match this one, and I do not hesitate in describing this coin as the finest known. In all mint state grades, even Gem condition, the 1907-D is one of the most common issues of the Barber type, but, of course, the term "common" is used here in the context of Barber Half Dollars, a series in which virtually every issue is at least scarce, if not rare, in Gem condition.

1615. **1907-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now with moderate hairlines and medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning. This coin is one step beyond the "mumps" variety, something I will call the "elephant man" variety since

there are large lumps on the face and eyebrow as well as on the neck. Purchased for \$3.50, no other pedigree information available.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1908-D HALF DOLLAR





1616. 1908-D, Gem Uncirculated. Not quite as nice as the incredible 1907-D in Lot 1614, but then, how many Barber Half Dollars are? This is still a solid Gem and certainly one of the finest examples known. It is sharply struck and fully lustrous with satiny surfaces and beautiful light reddish-gold toning that turns to deeper shades of blue-green and violet at the borders. There are a couple of tiny marks on the cheekbone as well as a few microscopic ones in the

right obverse field, but all of them are entirely obscured by the beautiful toning. Without a doubt, the overall eye appeal of this coin is exceptional. Although fairly common in grades below the Gem level, specimens of this technical quality and with this type of beautiful natural toning are actually quite rare and certainly very desirable. This piece was purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 633, for \$7.10.



1617. 1908-O, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck, unusually so for a 1908-O, with highly lustrous, frosty surfaces and superb medium russet, greenishgold and blue-green toning. This coin would easily grade Choice Uncirculated or better if it were not for a fairly prominent abrasion on the cheek that is now effectively



covered by the toning. The fields are very clean and the reverse is fully Gem quality. A noticeable die break runs from the point of the bust to the 13th star, something seen on many Barber Half Dollars. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 102nd sale, 7/31/48, Lot 827, for \$2.50.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1908-S HALF DOLLAR



1618. 1908-S, Gem Uncirculated. A superb specimen, one of the finest 1908-S Half Dollars in existence, comparable to both the Dr. Wynsen and Dr. Price coins and very nearly in the same quality category as the Eliasberg specimen. This coin is very sharply struck and has lustrous, frosty surfaces under superb medium cloudy sunset toning that is mostly reddish-gold and greenish-gold. There are a few diagonal "roller marks" across the face, but they are much less obtrusive than they are on many specimens and, as mentioned before, these "roller marks", or planchet striations as they are also called, are commonplace on S Mint Barber Half Dollars of the era. Except for the addition of the superb toning over the past 90 years, this coin is essentially "as struck" since it has no contact



marks, hairlines or problems of any sort. It is a magnificent coin, similar in technical quality to the 1907-D, but perhaps not quite as electrifying. Purchased by JJP from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 672, for \$27.50.

This is one of the more underrated issues in the Barber Half Dollar series. In all mint state grades, including Gem Uncirculated, the 1908-S is really quite comparable to the 1905-S and 1907-S and considerably more rare than the 1906-S, but all three of those issues have received more attention as rarities than this one. However, with the exception of the 1904-S and 1893-S, the 1908-S is just about as rare as any other San Francisco Mint Barber Half Dollar in mint state condition, although a few of the other S Mint issues are more rare in Gem condition.





1619. 1909, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 650 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge, deep mirror fields and a trace of pale, cloudy reddish-gold toning. There are a couple of faint obverse hairlines, but, as is often the case, the reverse is nearly perfect. Small marks are noted on 90 of the date, but they may be "as made". Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 636, for \$4.25.





1620. 1909-O, Choice Uncirculated. Well struck for the issue with only a little weakness on the hair around the face. Liberty has a minor case of the "mumps", and there are also some noticeable marks and abrasions on her face and neck; the fields, however, are very clean. The coin has very attractive toning, medium russet and gold with blue and violet highlights. Under the toning, the surfaces are frosty and not particularly lustrous, but this is typical of the issue. Considerably more rare in choice mint state than the 1907-O and 1908-O, but less rare in this condition than any of the other New Orleans Mint Half Dollars from 1892 to 1906. Purchased by JJP at an early stage of his collecting career from the New Netherlands 22nd sale, 11/13/45, Lot 1032, for \$10.





- 1621. 1910, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 551
 Proofs minted. A fully struck specimen with broad rims, a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. The toning is most attractive, a light to medium reddish-gold color with violet highlights; it is mostly at the periphery on the obverse, but is uniformly spread across the entire reverse. The obverse has just a few very light hairlines but, as is often the case with Proof Barber Half Dollars, the reverse is nearly perfect. Acquired from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 639, for \$8.
- 1622. 1911-D, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Well struck except for a slight weakness on the right talons and the wing near the shield. Frosty, lustrous and completely original with attractive light golden toning. There is a small abrasion on the obverse in front of the nose, but only a few other minor marks. Although this is not really a rare date, it is certainly not one of the most common issues of the series either; only 695,080 were struck. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 642, for \$7.
- 1623. 1912-D, Almost Uncirculated. A trace of friction and wear on the hair, around the face and on the eagle's wing tips. Not much luster due to long term storage in a manila coin envelope. Warm medium reddish-gold toning with a touch of multi-colored iridescence. Obtained from the same sale as most of these late date Barber Half Dollars, namely Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48. This coin was Lot 645 and realized \$5.50.





1624. 1913, Very Choice Proof. 627 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields, a full strike and irregular medium reddish-gold, blue and gold toning highlighted with a trace of violet. There are a few faint hairlines on the cheek but the fields are clean. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 647, for \$8.

1625. **1913-D, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with decent luster and irregular, tarnish type toning around the devices. There are some light hairlines and handling marks in the fields and on the face and neck. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 648, for \$6.15.





1626. 1914, Choice Proof. 380 Proofs minted. Beautiful natural medium reddish-gold toning with some violet and blue highlights at the borders. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin is fully struck. The eye appeal of this piece substantially exceeds its technical grade but, unfortunately, the coin is kept from a higher grade by light hairlines or slide marks on the face of Liberty. The 1914 is the rarest and most desirable of all of the 24 Proof Barber Half Dollar issues. This is due not only to its rarity and status as the lowest mintage Proof of the series, but also to the fact that high grade business strikes are very rare. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 650, for \$8.25.

GEM PROOF 1915 HALF DOLLAR





- 1627. 1915, Gem Proof. 450 Proofs minted. Broad rim, sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. Exceptionally beautiful toning, a blend of reddish-gold, violet, blue and sea green. The reverse is flawless and there are only a couple of really faint hairlines on the obverse that are obscured by the toning. This is a gorgeous Proof, the finest of the Barber Half Dollar Proofs in the Pittman Collection. Despite its slightly higher mintage, the 1915 has proven to be every bit as rare as the 1914. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 652, for \$12.50.
- 1628. 1915-D, Almost Uncirculated. Cleaned at one time, now with lackluster surfaces and medium multicolored toning, mostly greenish-gold and reddish-gold but with violet, blue and green highlights as well. Fairly well struck; light hairlines on the obverse, fewer ones on the reverse. There are also some minor contact marks, but nothing serious. Like nearly all of the late date Barber Half Dollars offered here in the Pittman Collection, this piece was acquired from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 653, for \$5.15.

1629. 1916, Walking Liberty Type. Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. This coin would be a Gem if it were not for some unfortunate slide marks on the breast and down the leg, the result of the coin being kept in a Wayte Raymond holder for decades. (As coins were added or replaced, the acetate slide in a Wayte Raymond holder moved back and forth across the high points of the coins in the holder. If a coin was not fully seated in the holder, or if the slide was not moved with extreme caution, over time, some coins acquired these slide marks. The desirability of coins housed for years in a Wayte Raymond holder seems to vary greatly. On the one hand, the holders produced the most beautiful toning imaginable on many coins, but the downside was that many coins, including some in the Pittman Collection, acquired highly detrimental slide marks. This is just such a coin.) This Half Dollar is well struck for the issue and has superb luster and outstanding peripheral obverse toning and a fully brilliant reverse, but the aforementioned slide marks certainly detract. Purchased from an unknown auction in the mid-1940's as Lot 283 for \$2.10.

This is the first year of issue of one of the most beautiful and popular designs in U.S. numismatics. Many collectors over the past 50 years have attempted, with varying degrees of success, to put together a complete collection of this series in high grade. Most of the issues are quite readily available, for a price, in the lower mint state grades, but high quality examples, especially those that are well struck, can be very elusive, particularly the issues from 1916-1928.





1630. 1916-D, Choice Uncirculated. Average strike with relatively little detail on the head and hand and on the eagle's trailing leg. The luster is excellent and the toning is very attractive and natural. On the reverse, there is just a trace of toning at the rim while the obverse has more prominent peripheral toning in shades of greenish-gold highlighted by a trace of violet and blue. The fields are very clean and there are just a couple of marks on the gown to the left of WE in the motto. There are also a few trivial marks on the figure, especially down the leg, but these are not slide marks. Rather similar in appearance and quality to the preceding 1916, but perhaps just a bit nicer since it does not have the obtrusive slide marks. This is one of the few coins JJP purchased privately from B. Max Mehl and one of his earliest purchases as well. It was acquired from Mehl on 7/9/43 for \$5. JJP had started collecting seriously only a few months earlier in April 1943.

1631. 1916-S, Uncirculated. Well struck with very good luster and a trace of russet toning on the obverse, particularly noticeable at the date. Minor slide marks are present on the right breast and down Liberty's leg. This is the lowest mintage Walking Liberty Half Dollar from the San Francisco Mint and is, in fact, one of the lowest mintage issues in the entire series; it is by far the rarest of the 1916 issues. Purchased by JJP from Ed Parker on 8/23/43 for \$13.50, a comparatively high price for the period, especially when one considers that the Walking Liberty Half Dollar series was current at the time of this purchase, i.e. the series did not end until 1947. During the same general time period, JJP was able to acquire Gem Uncirculated Bust Half Dollars for approximately 20% of the amount that he paid for this 1916-S. This just goes to show that the Walking Liberty Half Dollar series was very popular with collectors over 50 years ago at a time when the series was still current and the earliest issues were less than 30 years old.





1632. 1917, Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem category. Very sharply struck and lustrous with completely original surfaces and attractive light natural golden toning. The fields and devices are very clean with just a few minor marks and hairlines and I suspect that many will call this coin a Gem. Purchased on 8/21/43 from J. Hickie for \$2.25.

1633. **1917-D, Obverse Mintmark. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Well struck, although there is some of the typical weakness noted on the eagle's trailing leg. The coin has full mint luster and a trace of light golden toning. There are only a moderate number of trivial contact marks on both sides, but, unfortunately, there are also quite a few light hairlines on the obverse. In fact, the obverse looks as though as it was lightly "wiped". Purchased from James Kelly on 4/25/52 for \$22.50.

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale

will be held at the
Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor.
Special room rates have been arranged
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BEAUTIFUL UNCIRCULATED 1917-S HALF DOLLAR

Rare Obverse Mintmark Variety





1634. 1917-S, Obverse Mintmark. Very Choice Uncirculated, nearly in the Gem category, and likely to be so graded by many who view it. The coin has a notably original appearance and a good (but not full) strike. The luster is excellent and there is attractive tarnish type toning on the edge and near the rims. This tarnish type toning is deep russet in color; the balance of the coin is an appealing light gold color. There are a few light hairlines and marks on the coin, but nothing really serious, and this is undeniably a very handsome coin in all respects. Purchased on 11/4/52 from C.S. Foster as "Perfect gem uncirculated" for \$225. This price represented the most money that

JJP had paid for any U.S. Half Dollar he had purchased up to that point, including all of his Gem mint state and Proof Bust issues and pre-1858 Liberty Seated issues.

At one time, the 1917-S Obverse Mintmark Walking Liberty Half Dollar was considered one of the two or three rarest issues of the series, perhaps even the rarest in mint state. As a minimum, it was considered on a par with the 1921 and 1921-D as well as the 1919 and 1919-S. Those five issues were considered the cornerstones of the Walking Liberty Half Dollar series and it was only in subsequent years that some of the other issues, notably the 1919-D and 1921-S, came to be recognized as being even more rare in Gem condition.

- 1635. 1917-D, Reverse Mintmark. Uncirculated. Fairly well struck with warm light silver-gray and gold toning. The fields are clean, but there are quite a few minor hairlines and marks down the figure of Liberty. Moderately scarce in any mint state grade, this is one of those issues that is very difficult to find in Gem condition. In all grades, the Reverse Mintmark variety of the 1917-D is significantly more rare than the Obverse Mintmark variety despite the latter's much lower mintage. This shows once again that mintage figures are often of minimal value in determining the relative rarity of two issues, even of issues having the same date and within the same series. This piece was purchased 11/4/52 from C.S. Foster for \$50.
- 1636. 1917-S, Reverse Mintmark. Uncirculated. An original specimen with very good luster and attractive pale reddish-gold toning with a few small areas of darker tarnish type toning. This piece is very softly struck on the head and hand of Liberty as well as on the eagle's trailing leg. The fields are relatively clean, but there are several prominent marks on the leg of Liberty. This issue is only moderately scarce in mint state, but Gem quality examples are certainly rare. Purchased by JJP from a Wayte Raymond sale, 3/1/48, Lot 575, for \$16.75.
- 1637. 1918, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with full mint luster and beautiful light golden toning. Many fine hairlines on the obverse as well as some fairly heavy contact marks in the folds of Liberty's gown. There are also moderate hairlines or "wipe" lines at the top of the eagle's wing. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 663, for \$13.50. Note: Some of these Walking Liberty Half Dollars purchased by JJP in the 1940's will produce the lowest rate of return of any of the coins he purchased. There are a few notable exceptions, however, including the 1918-D, 1919-D and 1921-S that follow.

Mail Bids

Mail bids should be sent in time to be received at the office of David Akers Numismatics, Inc. in Stuart, Florida, no later than Thursday, May 14, 1998. Late bids should be sent directly to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, in care of David W. Akers.

BORDERLINE GEM 1918-D HALF DOLLAR





1638. 1918-D, Very Choice Uncirculated, nearly in the Gem category. This is a beautiful original specimen with lustrous surfaces and light, rather uniform golden toning over most of the surfaces with some darker tarnish type toning in the milling as well as near the date and by the obverse rim at K-7. There are a few very faint obverse hairlines in the right field and on the figure of Liberty. The strike is about average, perhaps somewhat better than average for a 1918-D, and there is a slight softness on the head, hand, and leg of Liberty and on the eagle's trailing leg. From an overall eye appeal standpoint, this coin definitely has the appearance of a Gem, but the striking qualities and the few minor hairlines keep it

from being a full Gem. Still, it is one of the finer examples to appear on the market recently, surpassed only by the outstanding Eliasberg coin that sold in April 1997. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 664, for \$18.50.

Along with the 1917-S Obverse, 1919-D and the 1921-S, this is not only one of the most valuable of JJP's Walking Liberty Half Dollars, but it is also one of the most attractive. Like virtually all Walking Liberty Half Dollars, the 1918-D is a condition rarity rather than a population rarity; that is, a great many examples exist, but most of them are either circulated or in the low mint state grades. Only at the Gem or near Gem level can this, or any Walking Liberty Half Dollar, be considered rare and that includes the two highest priced issues of the series, the 1919-D and 1921-S.

1639. 1918-S, Uncirculated. Weakly struck; light original gold toning. Slide marks all down the leg and on the breast. There are also a few marks on the leg and in the gown. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/27/47, Lot 1735, for \$15.50.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1919 HALF DOLLAR





1640. **1919**, **Very Choice Uncirculated**. Sharply struck with full head detail, most of the hand visible and considerable feather detail present on the eagle's legs and breast. The surfaces are highly lustrous and original and have attractive medium reddish-gold toning with areas of tarnish

type toning, particularly evident on the edge and rims and at the date, as well as in places on the reverse, especially in and around the devices. There are a couple of tiny marks in the folds of the gown and on Liberty's legs, but the obverse is very nice and virtually in the Gem category since the fields are superb and pristine quality. The reverse is not quite as nice as the obverse, but it is still choice and has only a few minor contact marks and hairlines, including one long hairline across the eagle's breast and the branch. Historically, this has been considered one of the rarest issues in the series. In fact, in the "old days", only the 1917-S Obverse, the 1919-S and the three 1921 issues were considered more rare. Today, the 1919 is recognized as being one of the scarcest issues in the series when all grades are considered, but a number of other issues are clearly more rare in Very Choice Uncirculated or Gem Uncirculated condition. JJP purchased this coin from the New Netherlands 22nd sale, 11/13/45, Lot 1052, for \$19.50. Around the same time, he purchased his Proof 1832 Half Dollar for \$20 and so it is pretty easy to see why JJP thought that the early Proofs he so dearly loved were extremely undervalued. Time has proven him to be correct, indeed, a man well ahead of his time in terms of understanding and appreciating true rarity and the value of quality.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE 1919-D HALF DOLLAR



1641. 1919-D, Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem category. This is a beautiful, completely original example of this rare issue that is one of the two rarest and most valuable issues in Gem condition in the series; of course, the other issue is the 1921-S. This coin is fairly well struck for a 1919-D, but not exactly full. There is some hand detail, although there is relatively little definition on the head and on the eagle's trailing leg. There are a few faint hairlines in the right obverse field and a couple of almost hidden ones on the figure of Liberty. The numerals 191 in the date are a little flat and weak as on most examples of this issue. The toning and originality of this coin are impressive, the toning a light to medium reddish-gold with natural tarnish type toning on the edge and near the rims. There are a couple of small green spots on the eagle's wing (probably easily removable)



and the coin is really sufficiently choice that it could reasonably be graded a Gem with little dissent. As such, it is one of the finest 1919-D Half Dollars seen in recent years, although both the Louis Eliasberg and James Pryor specimens were as choice, if not slightly finer. Unlike some of the other Walking Liberty Half Dollar issues offered here, for which JIP paid relatively high prices compared to what he purchased other rare coins for, this 1919-D will prove to have been an outstanding bargain. It was purchased on 12/8/46 from W.E. Marley for \$10. Of course, at that time, the 1919-D, though recognized as scarce, was not held in the same high regard as the other two issues of 1919, any of the three issues of 1921, or the 1917-S Obverse. Today, we recognize that, in Gem condition at least, particularly when well struck, the 1919-D is the rarest issue in the entire series.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1919-S HALF DOLLAR



1642. 1919-S, Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. Sharply struck on the head of Liberty, but weak on her hand and on the trailing leg of the eagle. Irregular, scattered tarnish type toning, mostly on the obverse, the reverse having just a trace of it at the border. The fields are very clean with almost no marks and just a few light hairlines. There is, however, one noticeable nick on Liberty's neck. The first two numerals of the date and part of the second 1 are rather weak as they are on most examples of this issue. The luster is decent, but not great, and yet the coin still has a very attractive overall appearance. This issue has



long been considered one of the prime rarities of the series; in fact, back in the 1940's, it was considered to be possibly the rarest Walking Liberty Half Dollar, considerably more rare than the other issues of 1919 or any of the three rarities of 1921. Only the 1917-S Obverse was thought to rival the 1919-S in terms of overall rarity. This coin was purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 668, for \$61.50. This purchase price was approximately 3 to 4 times the amount JJP was paying for Gem Proof Liberty Seated Half Dimes and Dimes of the 1840's at that time.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1920 HALF DOLLAR



1643. 1920, Gem Uncirculated. This is an outstanding example of this issue with a very sharp strike, superb luster and very clean surfaces. The obverse has beautiful iridescent greenish-gold and russet toning with a trace of violet and blue at the border. The reverse is almost fully brilliant with just a touch of light golden toning and traces of tarnish type toning on the edge and rims. There are many raised die scratches below the motto IN GOD WE TRUST around Liberty's foot. A couple of minor marks are seen on the obverse on the leg of Liberty, but the fields are nearly pristine, as is the entire reverse. Prominent clash marks are noted at the eagle's beak. This is a very common issue below Gem Uncirculated, but as any specialist in this series knows, a Gem Uncirculated 1920 Half Dollar is very scarce, if not moderately rare. In fact, the 1920 is actually more rare in Gem condition than the 1919, a statement that would either stun or leave bewildered the old-timers of the 1940's who considered the 1919 to be a rarity and the 1920 to be a very common coin. (Of course, that is because condition rarity was not a widely recognized concept at that time and, in terms of the total number of pieces known, the 1920 is certainly far more common than the 1919.) JJP purchased this coin early in his collecting career from James ("Diamond Jim") Kelly on 12/10/43 for \$5. JJP always referred to James Kelly as "Diamond Jim" for a number of reasons, including the fact that Kelly was originally a jeweler from the Dayton, Ohio, area. Kelly later joined forces with Max Humbert, Jim Ruddy and former Ohio Governor, Mike DiSalle, to form Paramount International Coin Corp. in Englewood, Ohio, a company with which I was associated for many years.





1644. 1920-D, Uncirculated. Sharply struck on the head, but the hand of Liberty and the trailing leg of the eagle are very weak. The surfaces are very lustrous and mostly brilliant, but there is a very thin band of reddish-gold and violet peripheral toning on the obverse and tarnish type toning on the edge and rims of both the obverse and reverse. There are fairly heavy slide marks down the figure of Liberty as well as on the eagle. Obviously, this coin did not fare too well in the Wayte Raymond holder in which it was kept for nearly half a century. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 670, for \$19.50.

ATTRACTIVE 1920-S HALF DOLLAR





struck for the issue, but not quite full since Liberty's hand is weak and the feathers on the eagle's trailing leg are also lacking definition. The surfaces are completely original and have beautiful light to medium reddishgold toning with some tarnish on the edge and at the rims. There are virtually no marks or hairlines to speak of, and it is likely that this coin will be graded a full Gem by many, if not most, who examine it. It is an exceptional looking coin in all respects, one of the finest to be offered at auction in recent years, roughly comparable to both the Eliasberg and Pryor specimens. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 22nd sale, 11/13/45, Lot 1054, for \$18.50.

In the mid-1970's, a small group of original and high quality examples of this issue was uncovered. This group was reported to consist of at least one original roll, and some accounts have indicated that there may have been as many as two or three original rolls. I saw many of the pieces from this group and they were of uniformly high quality, many quite well struck, and all with full mint luster; some of the coins had attractive light toning as well. Prior to the appearance on the market of that small "hoard", the 1920-S Half Dollar was extremely difficult to find in high grade. This Pittman specimen offered here obviously pre-dates the "hoard" by many years and so, at the time of purchase, it undoubtedly was considered rare and one of the finest known examples of this issue.

BORDERLINE GEM 1921 HALF DOLLAR





1646. **1921, Very Choice Uncirculated,** virtually in the Gem category. Sharply struck with full mint luster and a trace of cloudy light golden toning. Considerable tarnish type toning on the edge. There are a few trivial marks on the leg, but the fields are very clean. There are also a couple of tiny marks which are largely hidden in the eagle's wing feathers. Purchased by JJP during the first year of his half century long collecting adventure. The coin was acquired on 9/30/43 from dealer, James Kelly, for \$35.

This is the second lowest mintage issue of the series; only 246,000 pieces were struck and the 1921 has long been considered to be one of the prime rarities in this popular series. Back in the 1940's when JJP acquired this coin, the 1921 was considered a more important issue than the 1921-S and almost every other issue in the series as well, excepting only the 1919-S, 1921-D and the 1917-S Obverse mintmark variety.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1921-D HALF DOLLAR

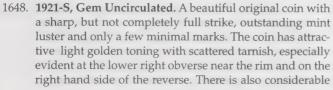




1647. 1921-D, Choice Uncirculated. Average strike for the issue with the characteristic softness on the head, hand and eagle's trailing leg. Very lustrous, frosty surfaces with light golden toning and tarnish on the edge. The reverse is essentially Gem quality, but the obverse has some light slide marks and hairlines on the figure of Liberty. The fields, however, are very clean and virtually unmarked. With only 208,000 pieces struck, the 1921-D has the lowest mintage figure of any issue in the entire series. It is far more difficult to acquire in Gem condition than the 1921 Philadelphia Mint issue, yet for some reason most standard pricing guides curiously value the two issues at about the same level. JJP acquired this coin at the same time as he did the 1921-S in the following lot. It was purchased from Wayte Raymond's Howard R. Newcomb sale, Part II, 5/16/45, Lot 880, for \$8.

VERY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1921-S HALF DOLLAR







tarnish on the edge as well. This is a splendid coin in all respects and a solid Gem. The 1921-S is not only the rarest and most valuable issue in the series in mint state (but not in Gem condition, that honor belongs to the 1919-D) but, among JJP's Walking Liberty Half Dollars, this coin is perhaps the finest in terms of its overall quality. It was

continued top of next page

1648 continued

acquired by JJP at the same time as the 1921-D in the preceding lot and was purchased from Wayte Raymond's Newcomb II sale, 5/16/45, Lot 881, for \$16.

In the 1940's when JJP purchased this coin, the 1921-S was considered moderately rare, but not the premier issue of the series as it is regarded today. At that time, several other issues were considered significantly more rare, notably the 1919-S and 1917-S Obverse mintmark variety. Even the 1921 Philadelphia Mint issue, now recognized

as the least rare of the three issues of 1921, and the 1921-D were considered to be more rare and desirable than the 1921-S. Not many examples of the 1921-S exist today in Gem condition. The Pryor specimen that was sold in January 1996 was one and the Norweb and Eliasberg examples were others, as were the three specimens that I sold in Auction '89 including the Whitlow coin. Other Gems of the issue exist, of course, but there are fewer of them than of any Walking Liberty Half Dollar other than the 1919-D.





- 1649. 1923-S, Uncirculated. Fairly sharp head, some hand detail, but weak on the trailing leg. Light reddish-gold toning with some multicolored iridescence at the obverse rim. There are light hairlines on both sides, but very few marks. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 675, for \$21.
- 1650. **1927-S, Uncirculated.** Softly struck on Liberty's head and hand and on the eagle's trailing leg. Lustrous surfaces with light golden toning and tarnish on the edge. There is a long prominent scratch running diagonally from the gown into the field above the motto. Other marks are seen on the figure of Liberty, including some slide marks on the breast. The fields are very clean except for the aforementioned scratch. Purchased from J. Hickie, 8/21/43, for \$3.95.





1651. 1928-S, Uncirculated. A very lustrous specimen with surfaces that are mostly brilliant except for a trace of light toning at the borders and heavy tarnish on the edge only. Very weakly struck on the head and hand of Liberty and on the trailing leg of the eagle. There are slide marks on Liberty and several sharp nicks in the right obverse field. Before JJP became a big auction buyer, he purchased a number of coins privately from some of the major dealers in the country, including B. Max Mehl of Fort Worth, Texas, the source of this particular coin which JJP acquired on 7/9/43 for \$5.

- 1652. **1929-D, Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous specimen with light golden toning; light friction on the breast and down the leg as well as on the eagle. Light to moderate bag marks and hairlines in the right obverse field. Purchased privately from B. Max Mehl on 7/9/43 for \$3.
- 1653. 1929-S, Choice Uncirculated. Average strike for the issue with some softness on the head and hand of Liberty and on the eagle's trailing leg. Fully lustrous and brilliant except for light toning at the border and tarnish on the edge. Heavy die scratches in the left obverse field. There are a few tiny slide marks on the right breast of Liberty and a few minor contact marks in the right obverse field. Purchased from B. Max Mehl, 7/9/43, for \$2.50.
- 1654. 1933-S, Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck with attractive light golden toning and tarnish around the edge. Moderate luster, a few tiny slide marks on the breast of Liberty. Purchased from B. Max Mehl, 7/9/43, for \$2.
- 1655. A group of four Walking Liberty Half Dollars, including 1934, 1935, 1940 and 1940-S. All of the coins except the 1940 grade Choice Uncirculated or better, but the 1940 grades only minimal Uncirculated with several sharp marks on the leg. All four coins have nice luster and attractive light golden toning with tarnish on the edges. The 1940-S is softly struck, the others are sharp. Four pieces.
- 1656. **1934-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with excellent luster. The obverse is considerably better than the reverse which has some noticeable marks on the eagle. The surfaces have light golden toning and there is tarnish on the edge. Purchased 7/9/43 from B. Max Mehl for \$2.
- 1657. **1934-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; decent, but not great, luster. Heavy tarnish on the edge and a combination of light toning and tarnish at the obverse rim; the reverse is fully brilliant. Not many marks on the coin, but there are a few in the right obverse field including a small abrasion just above IN of the motto. Purchased from B. Max Mehl for \$2 on 7/9/43.
- 1658. **1935-D, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Fairly well struck, just a little weak on the head and hand of Liberty and on the eagle's trailing leg. Very lustrous surfaces, light golden toning with considerable tarnish on the edge. There are a few trivial marks on Liberty's leg as well as some minor marks on the eagle's wing feathers. Acquired from B. Max Mehl for \$1.50 on 7/9/43.

- 1659. **1935-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Softly struck with satiny surfaces and light golden toning. There are a few faint slide marks on Liberty's breast. Purchased from B. Max Mehl on 7/9/43 for \$1.50.
- 1660. A group of three Walking Liberty Half Dollars, including 1936, 1936-D and 1936-S. The P and S Mint issues are Uncirculated while the 1936-D grades Very Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even Gem Uncirculated. All three coins are highly lustrous with light golden toning and tarnish on the edges. Three pieces.
- 1661. A group of three Walking Liberty Half Dollars, including 1937, 1937-D and 1937-S. All grade Choice Uncirculated and are highly lustrous with attractive light golden toning and tarnish on the edges. All have relatively few and minor marks only. Three pieces.
- 1662. **1938-D**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category despite a couple of milling marks in the right obverse field. The strike is average or slightly better and the coin has full mint luster with light golden toning and tarnish on the edge. There are a few faint slide marks down the figure. Purchased from B. Max Mehl on 7/9/43 for \$1.25.
- 1663. A group of four Walking Liberty Half Dollars, including 1938 and the P-D-S issues of 1939. All four coins grade Choice Uncirculated and are attractive, lustrous, original coins with light golden toning and tarnish on the edges. Four pieces.
- 1664. A short set of Walking Liberty Half Dollars, complete from 1941-1947. The grades range from Uncirculated to Choice Uncirculated with a few grading possibly as high as Very Choice. All have excellent luster and light golden toning with tarnish on the edges. A few are weakly struck, but most are average or better in that all-important respect. All of the coins have light to moderate bag marks, but no serious problems. There are no Gems here, but some of the coins are very nice. 20 pieces.

U.S. SILVER DOLLARS

1665. 1795, Flowing Hair, Two Leaves Below Wing. Bolender-9, Bowers-Borckardt-13. Very Fine in terms of wear, but severely damaged on the edge and rims, probably the result of being in some kind of a mount. There are also

several planchet defects near the date as well as on the reverse at A of STATES and at OF. Medium greenish-gold toning, darker at the rims. An unusual looking coin that certainly has more than its share of problems.



1666. 1795, Draped Bust. B-15, BB-52, Hilt-1a. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Bust well centered in the die, top curl of the hair under left side of E in LIBERTY. This piece is very sharply struck with partially prooflike surfaces and attractive medium reddish-gold, blue and violet toning. The centering is slightly off to the lower right on the obverse and off to the upper right on the reverse. There are some light hairlines under the toning but very few marks. Most of the feathers on the eagle's breast are clearly visible although the top of the eagle's right leg is flat. There is die rust on the reverse to the right of the eagle's neck, in the



leaves below the F in OF, and between F and the first A in AMERICA. This piece is Die State IV as referred to in Q. David Bowers' reference book on Silver Dollars. The Bowers reference notes that, "As is the case with BB-51, most specimens of BB-52 are in the range of VF-20 to VF-35. Lower grade coins are seldom seen, and pieces in EF-40 or better grade are rare as well." He also notes that the population of BB-52 is, perhaps, about two-thirds that of BB-51, although neither variety is considered rare. This coin was purchased as Uncirculated from A.H. Baldwin & Son in March 1954 for the equivalent of \$42.

CONDITION CENSUS 1798 DOLLAR

B-26, BB-114 Variety





1667. 1798, Heraldic Eagle. B-26, BB-114. Almost Uncirculated. Close date, pointed 9. Sharply struck and well centered with broad even denticles, except on the left obverse where they are narrow and indistinct. Attractive medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning with some violet highlights. There is an old vertical scratch on the neck in addition to just a few other light hairlines and handling marks. There is a fine die break running from the denticle below 9 in the date, under the 17, curving gently through the two inner points of the 1st star into the field. There are heavy die breaks on the reverse starting in the denticles below the olive branch and spreading out left and right; the break runs through the tail and arrows on the left, curving through the wings, clouds and TAT to the rim. On the right, the break runs through the last A in AMERICA, leaves, ribbon and wing, curving through the clouds and the base of the O in OF. Another part of the break runs vertically from the stem of the olive branch to

the shield. Unfortunately, I am unable to find any information at all concerning JJP's acquisition of this piece.

In his excellent reference work on U.S. Silver Dollars, Q. David Bowers notes that, "1798 BB-114 exists to the extent of 35-60 pieces, if indeed even that many, and is one of the classic rarities of the year. All or nearly all specimens are in grades from EF downward. I am not aware of any AU or mint state coins." If true, that would mean that this Pittman specimen is at or near the top of the Condition Census for the variety. After viewing the coin at the 1997 New York ANA Convention, W. David Perkins, a researcher and student in the area of early Silver Dollars, stated in a letter to me dated August 3, 1997, "The Pittman specimen of 1798 B-26 certainly falls in the Condition Census. Exactly where it falls is always difficult to determine but I would not hesitate to call it one of the finest known for the variety". He further commented that, "I believe this variety to be overrated in the Bowers book. However, high grade examples are elusive. Perhaps being called one of the classic rarities of the year caused many to look for this variety. The real answer may be that more early dollars are being attributed as to variety than in the past."





1668. 1800, B-16, BB-187. Fine. Deep scratch in the left obverse field. Well centered with attractive medium multicolored toning, light reddish-gold with blue, greenish-gold and violet near the rims. Noticeable recutting at the bottom of the T in UNITED. There is also die rust near the A of STATES and heavier rust at the second S of STATES. There

is also a trace of die rust on the upper curve of the R in LIB-ERTY. According to the Bowers reference, this is one of the most plentiful varieties of the year and he estimates that about 700-1200 examples are known to exist. Again, unfortunately, there is no pedigree information whatsoever on this piece that I have been able to find.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1800 AMERICAI SILVER DOLLAR



1669. 1800, AMERICAI. B-19, BB-192. Choice Uncirculated. A beautiful, original coin with a sharp strike, excellent centering, full original mint luster and lovely natural light to medium reddish-gold toning with a hint of lilac. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few very light contact marks and faint hairlines. The eye appeal is excellent and this coin is solidly in the middle of the Condition Census for the variety. A die break runs above stars 5-7 and connects the letters LIBE of LIBERTY. There is a tiny vertical die scratch in the field below the first star near the denticles. Purchased by JJP from the 1949 ANA sale, Lot 198, for \$28. The coin was previously in the Adolph Freidman Collection and it was noted that it had cost Freidman \$45. Since he had to pay only \$28 for this coin at the ANA sale, JJP was obviously very pleased with his purchase because, although he never purchased any coin for its investment potential, JJP, like any collector, loved a "good buy".



In his reference work on U.S. Silver Dollars, Q. David Bowers notes that, "1800 BB-192 is one of the most populous varieties of the year. An estimated 600-1100 exist. The BB-192 is by far the commoner of the two varieties with AMERICAI reverse (the other being BB-191). Examples are available in all basic grade ranges, with most being in the VF category." To his Condition Census of 64-63-63-62-60-58 must be added the Louis Eliasberg coin, Lot 2192, which had not been seen by the author at the time of publication of his reference work, and, now, this Pittman specimen. At the top of the Condition Census list is a magnificent coin that I catalogued for Paramount's session of Auction '85, Lot 1264. This Pittman specimen is not the equal of that coin, but it is comparable to the best of the others in Bowers' Condition Census. JJP did not really collect early Bust Dollars to any great extent because they were always relatively expensive compared to other things that he was able to buy which were more rare but cost less. However, he did manage to come up with a real prize when he purchased this coin out of the 1949 ANA sale. JJP certainly had a knack for doing that.



1670. 1836, Gobrecht Type, Name On Base (C. Gobrecht F.), Plain Edge, Stars In Field. Impaired Proof, circulated to the equivalent of Choice Almost Uncirculated. Die alignment I. 415.6 grains. Deep mirror fields that are moderately hairlined. Slide marks on the arms, face, breast and legs of Liberty as well as in the right obverse field. The coin has light reddish-gold toning with a thin rim of blue-green and violet at the borders. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 962, for \$1,900.



This is the most common of the Gobrecht Dollars; it is listed in the Judd pattern book as J-60 and in the Pollock pattern book as P-65. In Q. David Bowers' Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, he makes the following comment about this issue. "1,000 struck. Delivered December 31,1836. 600 were deposited in the Bank of the United States (Philadelphia) and went into circulation. 400 remained at the mint for presentations and small orders (per R.W. Julian). About 60% to 70% of the known specimens are of this variety. Most surviving pieces (about 85%) show signs of wear or contact sufficient to merit a grade below Proof-60."

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1840 SILVER DOLLAR

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known





1671. **1840, Choice Proof.** Fully struck with a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields that have numerous, but light, hairlines. The coin has very light reddish-gold toning with some pale blue highlights around the right stars. The figure of Liberty is very clean and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. Purchased by JJP from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale conducted by B. Max Mehl, 3/23/48, Lot 980, for \$162.50.

Like all of the Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1850, this coin was struck from a reverse die which has defects on the outside of the right leg of the final A in AMERICA as well as on the inside of the right leg at the crossbar. (This gives the crossbar the appearance of being "broken".) This die was never used to mint business strikes,

only the Proofs from 1840-1850. In addition to the 10 or so Proofs struck for inclusion in the Proof sets of 1840, it is estimated that an additional 10-15 Proof 1840 Dollars were minted for sale on an individual basis. In my experience, this is one of the more "common" Proof Silver Dollars of the 1840's. It is similar in rarity to the 1842, 1844 and 1847, and more rare than only the 1846 and possibly the 1848. The 1840 is decidedly less rare in Proof than the 1841 that follows and, perhaps, more were struck of this issue and saved due to its novelty as the first year of the type. Since some business strikes exist with highly prooflike surfaces and have incorrectly been called Proofs in the past, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make a credible list of the known specimens with their proper pedigrees. However, it is my opinion that only 10-12 Proofs of this date are known.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1841 SILVER DOLLAR

One Of Only 5 Proofs Known





1672. 1841, Choice Proof. Similar in technical grade to the 1840, but much prettier due to its extraordinary toning. In fact, from the standpoint of gorgeous, electrifying toning, this Proof 1841 Silver Dollar has few peers in the entire Pittman Collection. On the obverse, medium gold bathes most of Liberty and the right obverse field; around the border, there is superb violet and deep blue toning. The reverse is just incredible, a deep blend of reddish-gold, violet and blue. The coin is very sharply struck with extremely deep mirror fields and light to moderate hairlines under the toning as well as a few minor contact marks and several tiny nicks on the obverse rim above the 10th star. On the reverse, which at first glance appears to be Gem quality, there is a flurry of light hairlines above the eagle's head under the toning. This is another coin in the Pittman Collection whose eye appeal far exceeds its technical grade. IIP loved gorgeously toned coins and eagerly sought them out. A common characteristic of many of the Proofs in the Pittman Collection is their remarkable toning; in fact, in the history of numismatic auctions, it is doubtful if any sale has ever contained so many beautifully toned coins as the John Jay Pittman Collection sale. This coin was purchased from a Hollinbeck Coin Co. mail bid sale, 2/10/53, Lot 29, for \$120.

This specimen was struck from the same reverse die as the 1840 in the preceding lot and all other known Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1850. It is identified by the tiny die defect on the outside of the right leg of the second A in AMERICA as well as the defect on the inner left side of the right leg and the "broken" crossbar. These defects are very small, but clearly visible to the naked eye. Although Q. David Bowers has indicated in his Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, as well as his catalogue of the Eliasberg Collection, that he considers the 1841 to be the second rarest Proof Dollar of the 1840's, I think that it may well be the rarest. Over the years, many examples incorrectly have been called Proofs because 1841 is one of the dates in the series of which a number of deceptive, highly prooflike specimens are known.

In all instances, the silver denominations of 1841 are extremely rare with the Dime and Quarter among the greatest rarities in the realm of Proof Liberty Seated coinage. All of the silver denominations were struck for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year which numbered possibly 10 complete sets. Additional examples of the Half Cent, Cent and possibly the Silver Dollar were also struck, but it does not appear that as many additional Proof 1841 Dollars (if any) were struck as were minted of the other Dollars in this decade. I can account for only 5 examples of this date in Proof, although it is possible that one or more additional pieces exist. Following is a complete list of the specimens known to me.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Hollinbeck 2/53: 29.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 2205; probably John H. Clapp.
- 4. Kenneth C. Long: 1211; Floyd T. Starr: 581; George B. Hussey: 123.
- 5. Amon Carter, Jr.: 247; Kern: 811.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1842 SILVER DOLLAR

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known





1673. 1842, Proof. This specimen is slightly better than a minimal quality Proof, but not quite in the Choice category. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge and light to moderate hairlines throughout the fields. It is not as high quality as either the 1840 or 1841 in terms of its technical quality, and it is also not even close to the 1841 in terms of its aesthetic quality or eye appeal. In addition to the hairlines, there are some minor contact marks in the right obverse field. The coin is mostly brilliant, but it does have areas of irregular light reddish-gold toning. Struck from the same reverse die as all Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1850, easily distinguished by the tiny defect on the right side of the second A in AMERICA. Purchased from Lester

Merkin's 10/4/69 sale, Lot 376, for \$875. Earlier, it had appeared as Lot 271 in Merkin's September 1967 sale.

In Proof, the 1842 Liberty Seated Dollar is very rare, similar in rarity to the 1840, 1844 and 1847, but not quite as rare as the 1841, 1843, 1845 and 1849. It is more rare than the 1846 and 1848. This is another of those dates of which a number of prooflike Uncirculated specimens exist, some of them with sufficiently prooflike surfaces that they erroneously have been catalogued and described as Proofs in the past. This makes determining the exact number of Proof 1842 Silver Dollars known a difficult task, and a listing of all the known specimens with their proper pedigrees a nearly impossible one. However, it is my estimate that perhaps 10-12 examples are known, a number consistent with Q. David Bowers' estimate in his Silver Dollar Encyclopedia of 7-14 Proofs extant.

VERY RARE PROOF 1846 SILVER DOLLAR

Repunched Date Variety



1674. 1846, Repunched Date. Choice Proof. Sometimes called a "blundered" date or "overdate". Close examination of the date area, however, clearly shows that it is not an overdate, but rather one in which the date was originally punched far too low, then only partially effaced before the numerals were punched into the correct position. The top halves of the original numerals 846 clearly show at the bottoms of the correctly placed numerals. This Proof is choice, original and very attractive with a full strike and deep gold, russet, blue-green and violet toning. The reverse is somewhat nicer than the obverse and is actually very close to Gem quality. There are some light hairlines under the toning, but none is really severe, and the fields also have no contact or handling marks. Importantly, the figure of Liberty is very clean. This Proof was purchased from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the famous Adolphe Menjou Collection, 6/15/50, Lot 2091, for \$220. Earlier, the coin had been in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale, Lot 135.

This is the only Proof Liberty Seated Dollar of the 1840's of which more than one variety exists, although both varieties were struck with



the same reverse that was used to mint all Proof Silver Dollars from 1840-1850. One variety of Proof of this year has a normal date (no repunching) and the other variety, the one most often seen, has the prominent repunching that is visible on this specimen as well as on the example in the complete, original 1846 Proof set offered in Lot 1712.

The 1846 is the most "common" date Silver Dollar in Proof of the 1840's, although this fact is not apparent in a review of the number graded by the two major grading services. Nevertheless, significantly more examples of this issue exist than of any other Proof Silver Dollar of this decade. In fact, more Proof 1846 Silver Dollars exist than of any Proof Liberty Seated issue of any date or denomination in the 1840's. Why more examples of this issue would have been struck than of any other Proof issues in the 1840's is open to conjecture. Generally speaking, all of the denominations of 1846 are more common in Proof than their counterparts of other years, so obviously more complete sets were struck and distributed in this year than in any other. Also, a substantial number of extra Silver Dollars had to have been struck as well, probably at different times of the year since two different obverse dies were used. The normal date variety is far more rare than the repunched date variety and only 5-6 such specimens are known. The number known of the repunched date variety is substantially greater and it is likely that as many as 15-20 such Proofs are known; some estimates (cf. Bowers' Encyclopedia) place the number at an even higher level.

1675. **1846**, **Very Fine**. Cleaned, now with dull medium reddishgold toning and multi-colored highlights. A die break runs from the reverse rim above the D in UNITED through the

tops of the letters STAT. The date is repunched at 18. Purchased from Midas Coins, date of purchase and price paid unknown.



1676. **1846-O,** Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Almost fully prooflike surfaces under mottled multicolored toning, the toning probably resulting from an old cleaning. There is one scratch in the right obverse field and one above the eagle's left wing as well as some light hairlines and contact marks in the fields. Pitting is noted at the date and on the rim below it. This is a scarce and desirable issue in any grade.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1847 SILVER DOLLAR

One of Only 10-12 Proofs Known





1677. 1847, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. With the exception of a weakness on Liberty's foot, this coin is fully struck with a very high wire rim (especially at the upper left obverse), a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. The surfaces are completely original and superbly toned with a beautiful deep blend of reddishgold, blue, violet and greenish-gold colors which give this specimen an exceptional overall appearance. On the obverse, there are a few light marks, including a mark on Liberty's upraised forearm and another tiny contact mark in the left field between the arm and the 3rd star. There are also a couple of tiny marks in the lowest folds of the gown as well as a few faint hairlines in the right obverse field. On the reverse, there are a few faint hairlines above the eagle and also a nick by the F in OF and on the border above it. Several diagonal lines at the eagle's head are in the planchet and "as made". The eye appeal of this coin is so exceptional that many will probably call it a Gem despite its few marks. Among the relatively few specimens of this date in Proof that I have

seen, this is perhaps the most attractive, particularly from the standpoint of its toning. Also, from a technical grade standpoint, it is not surpassed by any other example known to me. Like all Proof Silver Dollars of the 1840's, this specimen was struck with the reverse die showing the small defects at the second A of AMERICA. JJP purchased this coin from B. Max Mehl's Frederic Geiss sale, 2/18/47, Lot 342, for \$132.50.

In Proof, the 1847 Silver Dollar is extremely rare. In addition to those struck for the 10-15 Proof sets of the year, an additional small quantity was undoubtedly minted, but probably no more than 10 pieces. Compared to the other Proof Silver Dollars of the 1840's, the 1847 is more or less in the middle of the pack. Of course, the 1846 is more common, and so probably is the 1848. On the other hand, the 1841, 1843, 1845, and 1849 are definitely more rare than the 1847, while the 1840, 1842 and 1844 are of similar rarity. Of the 20-25 Proofs of this issue minted, I estimate that only 10-12 examples are known. Nearly all of the other examples of this date in Proof that I have seen have been either low quality, unattractively toned, or both. This specimen is neither and I feel that most viewers will be very impressed with its overall quality and appearance.

VERY RARE PROOF 1848 SILVER DOLLAR

One Of An Estimated 12-15 Proofs Known





1678. 1848, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a partial wire rim. Lacking the marks that are present on the 1847, but essentially equivalent in quality since the hairlines on this piece are a little more prominent. The toning is fabulous; on the obverse it is mostly deep reddishgold, but with some violet highlights. The reverse is even more beautiful and also more deeply toned with a nice mix of violet, blue and reddish-gold. In addition to the few light hairlines in the obverse field, there are also some light ones above the eagle, but all of these are minor and largely obscured by the toning. This is a Proof-only variety, struck with the reverse die used to mint all Proof Silver Dollars from 1840-1850 (die defect on outside of the right leg of A, crossbar "broken" at right). The obverse die is also a Proof-only die used solely to mint the Proofs of this year and none of the business strikes. It is identifiable by tiny die chips or rust marks below Liberty's right breast, another small

lump on her eyebrow by the hair and some raised squiggly lines on Liberty's jaw and neck. These lines have the same form as lint marks but, since they are raised rather than incused, they are probably the result of tiny threads adhering to the master die or hub. This is a fabulous looking coin, comparable in every way to the 1847, and acquired by JJP at the same sale, namely B. Max Mehl's sale of the Frederic Geiss Collection in 1947. This coin was offered as Lot 343 and realized \$165.

The 1848 Silver Dollar in Proof is generally similar in rarity to the 1847, perhaps just a little less rare. Q. David Bowers, in his reference work on Silver Dollars, estimates a total Proof mintage of this date of 25-35 pieces which would include those issued in the 10-15 Proof sets of the year plus an additional 15-20 Proofs struck for sale on an individual basis. Bowers further estimates an existing population of 9-17 pieces. I agree with both of his estimates and feel that the number of known Proofs of the 1848 Silver Dollar is probably in the range of 12-15 pieces.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1849 SILVER DOLLAR

The Garrett Specimen — One Of Only Six Proofs Known





1679. 1849, Gem Proof. This is a fabulous coin, formerly in the John Work Garrett Collection and perhaps the second finest in terms of overall quality among all of JJP's Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1858; only the nearly perfect 1845 in the complete Proof set in Lot 1711 is finer. This specimen is sharply struck with a broad, square rim, deep mirror fields and beautiful mottled natural toning that blends light shades of reddish-gold, violet, and blue along with considerable original silver brilliance. The head and foot of Liberty are fully struck and every star is bold with all of its radial lines. There are only a few really trivial hairlines and tiny marks that are visible under the superb toning and the eye appeal, or aesthetic quality as Q. David Bowers calls it, is outstanding. This was the last Proof Silver Dollar that JJP acquired to complete his run of Proof Liberty Seated Dollars in the 1840's. He obtained it from Stack's 1976 sale of a portion of the John Work Garrett Collection as Lot 266 for \$7,500. T. Harrison Garrett had purchased the coin from the Randall Collection, September 18, 1885, as Lot 73. In the Garrett sale, JJP had dealer Bill (Top Dollar!) Grayson bid on the coin for him and he paid Grayson a \$500 commission giving JJP a total cost of \$8,000 for this magnificent coin. Abe Kosoff made the payment to Stack's on behalf of JJP using funds Kosoff had received from the sale of some coins which JJP had consigned to him. I mention the details of this transaction because it was in this manner that JJP purchased virtually all of his coins after 1961. After that year, he rarely, if ever, used out-of-pocket funds to purchase coins. Instead, he traded or consigned coins, usually to Abe Kosoff, who then sold the coins and used the proceeds to make purchases for JJP on his behalf.

All Proof silver coins of 1849 are extremely rare, among the rarest of the Proof issues of the 1840's. In his Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, Q. David Bowers comments that he considers the 1849 to be the rarest of the Proof Silver Dollars of the 1840's, and the 1849 certainly has a strong claim to that honor. In my experience, however, the 1841 is at

least as rare as the 1849, if not even a little more so, although any difference in rarity between the two issues is minor, if there is a difference at all. JJP himself always considered the 1849 to be the rarest Proof Dollar of the decade and he once told me that this specimen was one of only two really attractive examples of the quality that he preferred that had ever been available to him in his long collecting career. (The other was the Frederic Geiss coin, purchased by Floyd T. Starr in competition with JJP, after JJP had purchased Geiss' 1847 and 1848 Proof Dollars.) Apparently that is why he was willing to spend more money on this coin than he did for any other coin that will appear in the John Jay Pittman Collection sales.

In his Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, Bowers estimates that 8-12 Proofs of this issue were struck and that 5-8 examples are known. I agree completely with these estimates and have been able to identify only six specimens that are definitely distinct examples. Of course, since there have been a few other auction appearances of "Proofs" in the past, it is possible that another specimen or two exists. However, I should point out here that, like most of the Philadelphia issues of the 1840's, a number of prooflike business strikes of this date exist and some of the auction listings in the past may actually have consisted of prooflike mint state examples rather than true Proofs. The six specimens listed below, however, are all definitely Proofs which are easily identifiable since this is a Proof-only variety. The reverse die used to strike the Proofs of this year was the same Proof reverse die used to mint all Proof Silver Dollars in the 1840's as well as 1850. The obverse die is also one that was used only for the Proofs; it is identified by a small unfinished area under the chin of Liberty as well as an imperfection on the 4 in the date manifesting itself as a weakness on the lower half of the upright and on the serif of the horizontal crossbar. Following is the list of the six Proof 1849 Silver Dollars that I have been able to identify as distinct specimens.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; John Work Garrett: 266; Woodward's 78th sale (Randall Collection) 9/1885: 73.
- 2. Floyd T. Starr: 592; Frederic Geiss: 344.
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 2216; probably John H. Clapp. Weakly struck on the head and right hand stars, the only such specimen I have seen.
- 4. California collector specializing in Proof Liberty Seated coinage.
- 5. Kenneth C. Long: 1219.
- 6. Amon Carter, Jr.: 257.

1680. **1849**, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Fully prooflike, as are many examples of this date. Attractive medium blue and reddish-gold toning. Softly struck on the head of Liberty and on most of the stars. There are

numerous light hairlines and some minor handling marks under the toning, most prominently above the eagle's head, but there are also quite a few in the obverse fields. Purchased from C. Foster, 2/25/52, for \$17.50.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1850 SILVER DOLLAR





1681. 1850, Very Choice Proof. Open 5, repunched 0 in date, the repunching visible at the bottom of the numeral. Die file marks present at the denticles below 50 in the date. The fields are deeply mirrorlike, but they also have some of the striations seen on many Proofs of most denominations of 1850 and on virtually all of the Silver Dollar Proofs. The coin is fully struck with a broad square rim, a sharp edge, and a full head and foot on Liberty as well as boldly defined stars and eagle. The coin has beautiful medium reddish-gold toning with highlights of blue-green and violet on the obverse and more intense shades of the same colors on the reverse. There are a few hairlines in the fields as well as a few barely noticeable slide marks on the figure of Liberty. The overall appearance and eye appeal of this specimen are excellent, and it is essentially equal in quality to the finest of JJP's Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1858 with the exception of the superb 1845 and 1849. JJP

purchased this coin from New Netherlands Coin Co. in New York City on 7/10/44 for \$50. The coin traces its earlier pedigree to the Virgil Brand Collection. JJP acquired a number of his Proof Silver Dollars in 1944 and they represent the first rare and expensive early Proofs that he obtained for his collection.

The Proof 1850 Silver Dollar is very rare, as are all the Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from this era. However, it is less rare than any of the Proofs of the 1840's with the sole exception of the 1846 to which it is comparable in rarity. Q. David Bowers estimates an original mintage of 40-60 pieces and states the opinion that 21-35 Proofs still exist. He may well be right, but the upper end of his estimate seems high to me and I estimate the number known more in the range of 20-25 Proofs. Whatever the "correct" number, it is certainly the case that Proof 1850 Dollars are considerably more often available than high grade business strikes since, in mint state, the 1850 is a notably rare issue and one that is virtually unknown above the Choice Uncirculated level.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1850-O SILVER DOLLAR

Possibly The Third Finest Known Example





1682. 1850-O, Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. Generally very well struck except for a little weakness on Liberty's head and on the eagle's neck feathers. All of the stars are full and sharp with every one of their radial lines present. Liberty's sandaled foot is also sharply defined as are the arrow feathers, the wing and leg feathers of the eagle, and all of its talons. This is a beautiful original coin with excellent luster and attractive reddishgold peripheral toning highlighted with a touch of violet and blue. The centers of the coin are light reddish-gold. There is one tiny die rust pit in the right obverse field near the 12th and 13th stars; there is also considerable die rust in the reverse field, especially above the eagle's head and near the left wing. The 5 in the date is closed, i.e. the vertical element touches the ball. The fields are semiprooflike and have only a few very light contact marks and faint hairlines. The mintmark is bold, the result of

being sharply impressed into the die. This outstanding coin was one of JJP's earliest purchases. He acquired it from F.K. Saab on 4/17/43 for \$6.

Only 40,000 pieces of this issue were minted and most of them must have gone directly into circulation because nearly all known examples grade below Extremely Fine. In grades of Extremely Fine and Almost Uncirculated, the 1850-O Dollar is very scarce, if not moderately rare, and full mint state specimens are among the rarest of the business strikes in this series. Based on the specimens that I have seen over the years, this specimen may well be the third finest known after the two examples I catalogued for Auction '79 and Auction '80 respectively. Both graded Gem Uncirculated by the standards of the day, but are probably more accurately described as Very Choice Uncirculated by current, more strict grading standards. Of course, it is always possible that another example or two exist in the same quality category as this one, but even if there are a few others, this piece is still solidly within the Condition Census for this rare issue.

VERY RARE ORIGINAL 1851 SILVER DOLLAR

One of Only 1,300 Minted





1683. 1851, Original, High Date. Uncirculated. Fully prooflike. Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim and well defined head, foot and stars. Clash marks are noticeable on the obverse below Liberty's right (upraised) arm, characteristic of all known specimens. The toning is a very attractive medium to deep iridescent blend of violet, reddish-gold, blue and greenish-gold. The fields have light to moderate contact marks and there are some even lighter ones on the figure of Liberty. The heaviest marks are above the eagle's head and in the right obverse field. Several small nicks are noted in the high wire rim. Purchased from a James F. Ruddy auction, 7/18/56, for \$505; previously in the collection of Claude R. Collier.

In a letter I received from Q. David Bowers, he related the following story of this particular 1851 Silver Dollar. "In 1956, the widow of Claude R. Collier, who still lived in Binghamton (as did Claude), contacted Jim Ruddy, then an employee at ANSCO Film Co., but a rare coin dealer in his spare time. Mrs. Collier asked Jim if he would like to handle the stamps in the Collier estate, which Jim did with a great deal of satisfaction to Mrs. Collier. She then asked him if he would like to handle the coins and he did this by making up a mail bid sale. John was the successful bidder for the 1851."

The 1851 Silver Dollar had one of the lowest mintages of the entire Liberty Seated Dollar series. Only 1,300 examples were struck for business purposes, but apparently none was placed into circulation in the year of issue. Bowers notes in his Encyclopedia that they probably left the Mint a year or two after minting in exchange for bullion deposits. He further notes that, "The desirability of the low mintage 1851 and 1852 dates was recognized early in the numismatic game, by which time most were no longer available at the source. By 1858, the "Midnight Minters" and others at the Mint knew full well that the 1851 (and 1852) dollars were rarities. It is logical to assume that by that time the original business strike mintages had been dispersed." As a final note, Bowers states that, "This is the rarest Philadelphia Mint silver dollar in the Liberty Seated series, 1840-1873." He estimates the number of known specimens between 26-52 pieces, which certainly places this issue in elite company in terms of its overall rarity. Most known examples are mint state and those that are in circulated condition are in relatively high grade, EF to AU specimens being typical. This Pittman specimen, although certainly not in the Condition Census, is still a highly attractive and desirable example of this rare and famous issue.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1852 SILVER DOLLAR





1684. 1852, Very Choice Proof. A very sharply struck specimen with the stars and eagle particularly bold; the head and foot of Liberty are fairly sharp but not fully defined. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin has superb natural russet, violet and blue toning with deeper shades at the periphery. There are a few light hairlines on the coin, especially in the right obverse field, as well as a few light ones on the reverse above the eagle. A few faint slide marks are noted on the thigh and stomach of Liberty and they, more than anything else, keep the coin from the Gem class. A long die scratch runs from the denticles between stars 1 and 2 diagonally down and under star 1. There are a few other smaller die scratches around the first two stars as well. This coin appeared in the 1949 ANA sale as Lot 233 where it sold for \$250 to B. Max Mehl. Mehl subsequently sold it to JJP on 9/23/49 for \$260. Previously, the coin had been in the Adolph Friedman Collection.

Many researchers and cataloguers have described, claimed or hypothesized the existence of both Originals and Restrikes of Proof 1852 Silver Dollars. However, I remain unconvinced that any Proof Silver Dollars were actually struck in 1852, and I believe that all of the Silver Dollars of 1852 (in fact, all Proofs of 1852 regardless of denomination) were minted later in the decade and are therefore Restrikes. (Those interested in contradictory views on the subject, however, should consult Q. David Bowers' Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, Walter Breen's various works, and Stack's 1992 Floyd Starr catalogue with commentary by Michael Hodder.) Whether the Proof Dollars of 1852 were actually minted in 1852 or subsequently (or both) is not known for certain, and may never be; but one thing is definite, and that is the high level of desirability of this Proof issue, due not only to its own rarity, but also due to the fact that high grade business strikes are extremely rare. (The number of 1852 Dollars minted for commercial purposes was only 1,100, the lowest mintage figure in this series.) Nevertheless, this issue is not as rare as any of the Proof Silver Dollars from 1840-1850 nor is it as rare as the 1853 that follows. The exact number minted, be they Restrikes, Originals or a combination thereof, probably numbered about 50-60 pieces with perhaps half that many still accounted for today. When aesthetic quality and eye appeal are considered in addition to technical quality, this Pittman specimen undoubtedly ranks among the finer ones in existence.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1853 SILVER DOLLAR

One Of Only 7-10 Proofs Known





1685. 1853, Very Choice Proof. This Proof is a Restrike, as are all Proof Silver Dollars of this date. The coin is very sharply struck with a high wire rim, a square edge, deep mirror fields and delicate light reddish-golden toning with a few shades of violet and blue on the rim and near the borders. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but most of the apparent "hairlines" are really raised die scratches, especially those in the right obverse field. There are die file marks at the bottom of the base just above 53 in the date and there are also a few die file marks at the denticles below 53. A few light slide marks are present on Liberty's thigh and stomach and there are several light hairlines above the eagle on the reverse. Two lint marks are noted near the denticles between stars 5 and 6. The 1 in the date has been repunched, but there is no sign of repunching on any of the other three

numerals. A long faint horizontal die scratch runs below the 3 in the date. On the reverse, the three vertical bars of the first stripe on the left reach to the second horizontal bar of the shield. This serves to make that horizontal bar appear slightly curved at that point rather than perfectly straight. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co. on 7/10/44 for \$150.

No Original Proof Silver Dollars were minted in 1853. The 7-10 Proofs that exist are the survivors of approximately 12-15 Restrikes that were struck a decade or so later. Proofs of this date were not known as late as 1860 according to an article written by George F. Jones in the "Coin Collectors Manual" in that year, and the first specimen to appear at auction sold in the McCoy sale of 1864. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the Proofs of this date were minted sometime during that four year period.

RARE CHOICE PROOF 1854 SILVER DOLLAR



1686. 1854, Choice Proof. Weak at the top of the eagle's left wing, but very sharp elsewhere. Deep mirror fields and a broad flat rim and square edge. Irregular, somewhat hazy golden brown toning, light to medium on the obverse, very light on the reverse. There are several dark blotchy areas on Liberty and on several of the letters in the legend on the reverse. There are some light hairlines in the fields, but nothing really serious. Two lint marks are noted between the 2nd and 3rd stars. The 4 in the date is repunched at the base. Above and between the 5 and the 4 in the date is a raised triangular shaped defect which may or may not be a portion of a misplaced numeral. There are diagonal die file marks at the denticles to the left of the 1 in the date. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection, 3/23/48, Lot 1130, for \$115.

Starting with the 1854 year, the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia substantially increased production of Proof coinage and made complete copper-silver Proof sets more available than they had been previously. As many as 30-35 Proof sets were minted in 1854 and, in addition to these sets, a modest number of extra Proof Silver Dollars were also struck to satisfy the collector demand for this denomination. Thus, the total Proof mintage of this date is thought to have been between 60 and 70 pieces with about half of that number still in existence today. The 1854 is more common than any of the Proof Silver Dollars preceding it and it is also less rare than the 1855. It is equal in rarity to the 1857 and, among the pre-1858 issues of Proof Liberty Seated Dollars, only the 1856 is more common than this date. One must remember, however, that "common" by Proof Liberty Seated Dollar standards does not equate to "common" by most other standards. Any coin of which only 30-35 examples exist certainly must be considered a rare item.

VERY RARE PROOF 1855 SILVER DOLLAR





1687. 1855, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Generally very sharply struck, but a few of the stars at the right are a little weak and Liberty's sandaled foot is not completely defined. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin is mostly quite brilliant but with a little blotchy russet toning highlighted with a hint of violet and blue. There are quite a few hairlines in the fields, almost all of them very light and unobtrusive, and there are a few faint slide marks on the thigh, neck and down the legs of Liberty. On the reverse, some dense hairlines appear under the eagle's left wing. There is a small lint mark near the denticles at the tip of the bottom arrowhead and a tiny planchet depression "as made" in the field just to the left of the bottom of the O in OF. JJP purchased this coin on 7/10/44 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$45.

In addition to the specimens minted for inclusion in the estimated 50-60 Proof sets struck in 1855, a small additional quantity of Silver Dollars was minted for sale to collectors on an individual basis. The total number struck is probably similar to that of the 1854 yet, for some unknown reason, fewer of the 1855 seem to have survived. At least two dozen specimens are known today and the actual number may, in fact, be closer to 30. The 1855 is the rarest of the Proof Silver Dollar issues from 1854-1858, but, of course, it is less rare than any of the Proofs from 1840-1853 with the exception of the 1852 to which it is very similar in rarity.

RARE PROOF 1856 SILVER DOLLAR



1688. 1856, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with full head and foot on Liberty, and bold stars with all their radial lines clearly visible. The eagle has just a trace of weakness at the top of the left wing but is otherwise extremely sharp. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have adequate, but not radiant, proof luster. The surfaces have delicate reddish-golden toning, mostly at the periphery, but also traces of it on the eagle. There are numerous light hairlines in the fields and on the devices, especially on Liberty's left arm. There are no nicks, scratches or abrasions in the fields, however and, despite the hairlines, the coin has an attractive overall appearance. Die rust is visible on the lower left side of the L in DOL and also on the upper left of the D. There is a die rust pit at the edge under L and two tiny die rust spots on the edge above CA of AMERICA. This reverse die was used to strike the Proofs of 1857 and 1858 as well. JJP purchased this rare Proof at the same time as he purchased the Proofs of 1850, 1853 and 1855 from New Netherlands Coin Co. He acquired them all on 7/10/44 and paid \$45 for this specimen.

Most Proof 1856 Dollars were struck for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year. An additional small quantity was also struck so that individual specimens could be sold to Silver Dollar collectors of the day which, along with copper collectors, outnumbered the collectors of any other series. (During those early days of U.S. numismatics, no one seemed to have much interest in collecting Three Cent Silver pieces, Half Dimes, Dimes, Quarters or Half Dollars, but the largest and smallest denominations had their followings.) As many as 75-100 pieces of this issue were minted and a reasonable estimate of the number still in existence today would be in the range of 35-40 pieces, making the 1856 the most common of the early Proof Silver Dollars issued prior to 1858.

RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1857 SILVER DOLLAR



1689. 1857, Choice Proof. Fully struck except at the top of the eagle's left wing. Liberty's head, foot and all the stars show extraordinary detail. Beautiful cameo appearance with a highly frosted figure of Liberty contrasting against deep mirror fields. There are a few scattered light hairlines as well as several minor marks in the right obverse field. There are also a few faint hairlines on Liberty's legs. The coin has the look of a higher grade specimen, but the hairlines detract. The toning is minimal but attractive, a warm reddish-golden color, very light on the obverse, just a bit deeper on the reverse. Die rust is present on the bottom of the L in DOL and also on the upper left portion of the D indicating this date was struck with the same reverse die that was used to mint the Proof 1856 and 1858 Dollars in the Pittman Collection. This coin was purchased from B. Max Mehl's Fred Olson sale, 11/7/44, Lot 1802, for \$35.

In Proof, the 1857 Silver Dollar seems to be more rare than the 1856, although the difference in rarity is fairly minimal. Most Proof Dollars of 1857 were undoubtedly minted for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year, but as was the standard practice at the Mint, a small number of additional specimens were struck for sale on an individual basis since Silver Dollars were a popular denomination with collectors even at that time. The total number struck may have been as low as 60 pieces and may possibly have reached as high as 90-100 pieces, but considerably fewer exist today and most estimates place the number still in existence in the range of 30-35 pieces.

POPULAR PROOF-ONLY 1858 SILVER DOLLAR





1690. 1858, Very Choice Proof. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1856 and 1857 Dollars in the two preceding lots except there is no sign of rust on the upper left side of the D in DOL. This specimen is higher quality and more attractive than any of the Pittman Proof Silver Dollars from 1854-1857. It is sharply struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful medium multicolored toning blending shades of blue, russet, violet and greenish-gold. There are a few light hairlines at the date as well as several in the fields. The figure of Liberty is very clean with only a few barely noticeable hairlines. Purchased privately from M.L. Kaplan on 12/10/52 for \$170.

In 1858, the Mint substantially increased Proof production again and began making available Proof sets and individual Proof coins to the general public for the first time. As early as 1854, sets and individual pieces were also available for purchase directly from the Mint on a limited scale, it was not until 1858 that the Mint, under the direction of Mint Director, James Ross Snowden, began the practice of selling directly to the general public and minting substantial quantities of collector oriented coins, a practice that continues to this day. For many years, it was always reported in various auction catalogues and reference works that only 80 pieces of this Proof-only issue were minted. That mintage figure never did correlate, however, with the number of specimens that were available since this has always been an issue in far greater supply than any of the Proofs preceding it. Current thinking, as stated in Bowers' Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, is that 225-250 Proof 1858 Silver Dollars were struck with perhaps 150 or so examples still in existence.





1691. 1859-O, Choice Uncirculated, perhaps even finer. Sharply struck except for the usual weakness on Liberty's head. Most of the stars are well defined and the eagle is especially bold. The date is a much smaller size than on any of the issues immediately preceding it and, on the obverse die used to strike this piece, the date was weakly punched into the die. This is an original and very attractive coin with beautiful multicolored toning that is medium reddish-gold with a trace of violet and blue on the obverse and much lighter reddish-gold on the reverse. There are a few light hairlines and microscopic contact marks on the surfaces, but this is still an outstanding looking coin, far superior to most others that have appeared on the market, especially those coming from the Treasury hoard of the early 1960's which consisted of a reported 3 or 4 bags (3,000-4,000 pieces). JJP's acquisition of this coin pre-dates the Treasury hoard by a decade and a half; it was acquired at the 1948 ANA Convention sale as Lot 606 for \$11.

Because of the large number of mint state coins that were released in the early 1960's from the Treasury Department, the 1859-O is obviously a very common issue, in fact, one of the most commonly available Liberty Seated Dollars in mint state. However, virtually all of the hoard coins were relatively minimal mint state quality, typically fully frosty and very heavily bagmarked. In Choice Uncirculated condition, the 1859-O still remains a very scarce, if not moderately rare, issue and, above that level, i.e. in Very Choice Uncirculated or Gem condition, it is a major rarity with probably fewer than 10 total pieces known.





1692. 1859-S, Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now with dull medium reddish-gold toning that has a few highlights of violet and green. There are numerous hairlines and marks in the fields and on the devices and there is also one long scratch running from the field to the left of the first S in STATES toward the top of the eagle's left wing. Only 20,000 1859-S Dollars were struck and it must have been the case that virtually all of the mintage went into immediate circulation since the quality represented here by the Pittman specimen is about typical for the issue. Mint state examples are very rare, among the rarest in the series. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 793, for \$6.50.

SUPERBLY TONED GEM 1860-O SILVER DOLLAR



1693. 1860-O, Gem Uncirculated. This is a magnificent coin that has extraordinary eye appeal and technical quality to match. It is very sharply struck with highly lustrous, satiny surfaces and unbelievably beautiful toning. On the obverse, the toning is a warm, light to medium reddish-gold in the center turning to electrifying shades of blue and violet in a thin ring at the border. The reverse is more evenly and delicately toned a light reddishgold color with just a trace of darker shades at the border. In the field close to Liberty's left arm (opposite the 4th star) are some very light scratches, now toned over and easily missed. For some, these will cause the coin to fall short of the Gem grade that I have assigned it, but the quality of the coin is otherwise exemplary and the overall appearance of the coin is so outstanding that to grade it less than a Gem would not do the coin justice. This 1860-O Dollar represents one of JJP's very earliest purchases; it was acquired from F.K. Saab on 5/7/43 for \$3.25.



The 1860-O is by far the most common Liberty Seated Silver Dollar in mint state. Like the 1859-O, a large number of mint state examples were discovered at the U.S. Treasury in the early 1960's and then dispersed. The hoard contained substantially more 1860-O Dollars, however, than it did 1859-O Dollars, and at least 5 or 6 bags of 1860-O Dollars were released. Most of the coins, like the 1859-O Dollars, were of minimal Uncirculated quality, and typically were highly frosty and heavily bagmarked. Obviously, this specimen is not a hoard coin since JJP acquired it almost 20 years before the existence of the hoard was even known. In addition to the Government hoard, a small group of 11 mint state pieces of this issue was sold at the 1997 Fall Long Beach sale by Heritage. Of the 11 pieces in that sale, 7 were certified as Gems, and so now, in addition to being the most common issue in terms of overall population rarity, the 1860-O is also one of the most common of the Liberty Seated Dollar issues in Gem condition. That fact does not diminish the desirability of the piece offered here, however, because its color and eye appeal put it in a class all by itself. Final note: This is another one of the strongest contenders among JJP's coins for the honor of being the coin that will realize the greatest return on IIP's original investment since it is almost a certainty that this piece will bring a four figure multiple of JJP's original \$3.25 purchase price.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1864 SILVER DOLLAR





1694. **1864**, **Very Choice Proof**, virtually in the Gem category. 470 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a broad border, sharp square edge and brilliant mirror fields that have just a trace of attractive light golden toning. The figure of Liberty and the eagle are highly frosted giving the coin a lovely cameo appearance. There are a few light hairlines, most of them restricted to the right obverse field. JJP acquired this coin from French's of Troy, New York, on 2/27/62 for \$100.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED PROOF 1866 SILVER DOLLAR

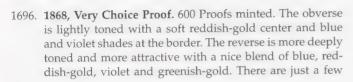




1695. **1866, Very Choice Proof.** 725 Proofs minted. This coin would be a Gem if it were not for a few light slide marks on the leg, arm and breast. The deep toning is very attractive with shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue. The strike is absolutely full and the fields are deeply mirror-like. Purchased from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 997, for \$625.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1868 SILVER DOLLAR







faint slide marks on Liberty, as well as a few light hairlines to the right of the date. Like the 1866 in the preceding lot, this coin was purchased by JJP at Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, Lot 999, for \$900.

HIGH GRADE 1870-CC SILVER DOLLAR



1697. 1870-CC, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. Fully prooflike fields under deep, somewhat dull reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. The reverse appears to be fully mint state, but there is just a trace of friction on the highest points of the obverse. Nevertheless, many will consider this a full mint state coin. There are light hairlines, handling marks and even a few faint scratches under the toning. A little weakly struck on the head but otherwise very sharp. There is some minor doubling on the reverse, most noticeable in the legend, especially on some of the letters in AMERICA. This is the most common of the four Carson City Liberty Seated Dollars, but it is still a scarce issue in any condition and a very scarce, if not



rare one, at this grade level. Only 12,462 examples were struck and, as Q. David Bowers points out in his excellent Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, opinions vary greatly as to the number of pieces still known. Some estimates are as low as 200 pieces, others as high as 1,000. Most of the known examples are well worn, however, with Very Good to Extremely Fine being the typically encountered grades. This piece is outside the Condition Census, but probably not by very much, and it is certainly safe and conservative to say that it is one of the 20-30 finest known specimens of the issue. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 801, for \$17.75.

GEM PROOF 1872 SILVER DOLLAR



1698. **1872, Gem Proof.** 950 Proofs minted. A beautiful, original coin with a full strike, deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge and slightly hazy violet and blue toning around a pale gold center. Close inspection reveals a few trivial hairlines, but this is still a Gem quality Proof of this period. JJP purchased it from the Frederic Geiss sale (B. Max Mehl, 2/47), Lot 371, for \$13.50.



1699. **1872-CC, Very Fine.** Full LIBERTY with BE slightly weak. Cleaned, now with deep, rather dull, multicolored toning in shades of gold, violet, blue-green and greenish-gold. There are many marks, hairlines and even minor scratches and abrasions in the fields. There is a prominent rim nick on the reverse below the leftmost leaf pair. This is a very scarce coin in all grades with fewer than 200 pieces thought to exist. JJP purchased this from French's 2/14/59 sale, Lot 172, for \$62.50, which was exactly half of the presale estimate.

RARE 1872-S SILVER DOLLAR



1700. 1872-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck except on the head of Liberty. The reverse is a fairly uniform light reddish-gold color; the obverse has irregular toning in shades of reddish-gold with blue, violet and greenish-gold at the border. Some luster remains on the semi-prooflike surfaces under the toning, but there are light to moderate contact marks and hairlines in the fields and on the figure of Liberty. Despite its lower mintage of only 9,000 pieces, the 1872-S is similar in rarity to the 1870-CC, but certainly not in the same rarity class as the other Carson City Mint issues from 1871-1873. Relatively few mint state examples are known and most available 1872-S Dollars are in the Very Fine to Extremely Fine range with only an occasional specimen grading as high as Almost Uncirculated. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/4/48, Lot 794, for \$15.50.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1873 SILVER DOLLAR





1701. **1873, Very Choice Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a prominent wire rim on both sides. Medium multicolored toning, an attractive blend of blue-green, violet and greenish-gold. There are a few light hairlines on the coin, but nothing serious. There are also a couple of tiny planchet chips or imperfections, "as made", in the right obverse field. Purchased from French's sale, 2/12/61, Lot 855, for \$52.50.

SUPERBLY TONED GEM PROOF 1881 SILVER DOLLAR





1702. **1881, Gem Proof.** 984 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and fabulous medium multicolored toning, a splendid mix of reddish-gold, blue, violet and greenish-gold. There is one small milling mark in the field between the hair curl and the 11th star. There are also a few faint hairlines and tiny pinpoint carbon spots, all of which are barely noticeable. The exceptional toning gives this piece great eye appeal. Purchased from Walter Webb in July 1944 for \$3.50.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED GEM PROOF 1886 SILVER DOLLAR





1703. **1886, Gem Proof.** 886 Proofs minted. Superb medium multicolored toning, a variegated blend of blue, violet, greenish-gold and reddish-gold; the toning is deeper on the obverse than on the reverse. There are a couple of microscopic spots near the 10th and 11th stars as well as a few faint hairlines, but the overall appearance of this coin is excellent, about on a par with the 1881 in the preceding lot. The date is noticeably repunched; this is a Proof-only variety. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's famous "World's Greatest Collection" sale, 1/20/45, Lot 200, for \$8.

GEM PROOF 1890 SILVER DOLLAR





1704. **1890, Gem Proof.** 590 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck except for a slight weakness in the hair over Liberty's ear. There is just a trace of green verdigris at the date and first few stars. The coin has a nice cameo appearance with deep mirror fields and softly frosted head and eagle. The obverse is mostly brilliant, but with a trace of delicate red-dish-gold peripheral toning. The reverse also has pale red-dish-gold toning, spread somewhat more uniformly across the surface. This coin has very good eye appeal, but it is not as pretty as the 1881 or 1886 in the two preceding lots. Purchased from Superior's sale of the Dr. Charles Ruby Collection, Part I, 2/11-13/74, Lot 1545, for \$390.

GEM PROOF 1900 SILVER DOLLAR





1705. 1900, Gem Proof. 912 Proofs minted. A beautiful original Proof with a sharp strike, deep mirror fields and lovely light to medium gold, russet and violet toning. There are a few faint hairlines on Liberty's cheek, but the fields are very clean, in fact, nearly pristine except for some toning spots on the reverse at UNITED and ONE DOLLAR. The overall appearance and eye appeal of this Proof are first-rate. Purchased by JJP from Walter Webb in July 1944 for \$5.50.

TONED GEM PROOF 1902 SILVER DOLLAR





1706. 1902, Gem Proof. 777 Proofs minted. A little weak on the hair over Liberty's ear and on the eagle's breast. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin has very attractive medium russet, greenish-gold, violet and blue toning. A few microscopic marks are present on the face, but they are largely concealed by the attractive toning. There is also one tiny mark in the field above the 9 in the date. Purchased from Walter Webb at the same time as JJP obtained the 1881 and 1900, i.e. in July 1944; this Proof cost \$6.

CHOICE "ZERBE" PROOF 1921 MORGAN DOLLAR





1707. 1921, Morgan Type. Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. This piece is one of the so-called "Zerbe" Proofs, allegedly struck at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia as a favor to Farran Zerbe, one of the most famous and well known numismatists of the early part of this century. The exact number minted is unknown, but estimates by various numismatists have ranged widely from 20-200 pieces. These "Zerbe" Proofs were not struck to the same quality standards as the so-called "Chapman" Proofs of the same year which look like Proof Morgan Dollars of 1904 and earlier. (On the "Zerbe" Proofs, the fields are mirrorlike but not especially deep.) Nevertheless, the "Zerbe" Proofs are rare and popular and this is an especially fine example. It has attractive multicolored toning in and around the letters and devices, a nice mix of tarnish type shades of red, gold, blue and violet. The strike is typical

for the "Zerbe" Proofs, i.e. much sharper than one would see on a business strike of this date, but not as sharp as the Proofs of the 1880's and 1890's. There are some minor slide marks on the face as well as a few scattered hairlines in the fields, but the overall eye appeal of this piece is excellent, superior to most "Zerbe" Proofs that are around since so many have been cleaned or mishandled. This piece was purchased by JJP early in his collecting career on 2/23/44 from James Kelly of Dayton, Ohio, for \$40. This was more than JJP had to pay for the 1857 Proof from the Olson sale a few months later and just a little less than he paid for the 1855 and 1856 Proofs from New Netherlands Coin Co. in the summer of 1944. Obviously, even back in the 1940's, the "Zerbe" Proofs were already highly regarded as rarities.

U.S. TRADE DOLLARS

PROOF 1873 TRADE DOLLAR





1708. 1873, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Exact mintage unknown, but estimated to have been between 600 and 865 pieces. This specimen is attractively toned with shades of medium blue, greenish-gold, russet and violet. There are light hairlines scattered throughout the fields as well as some minor marks. The strike is very sharp and the fields are deeply mirrorlike. The reverse is much higher grade than the obverse and easily falls into the Choice Proof category. This is the rarest Proof Trade Dollar of the collectible issues of the series from 1873-1883. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone in 1946 for \$9.

Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.









1709. **1882, Proof.** 1,097 Proofs minted. A little dull, but some of the original mirror surface still remains. The toning is a light reddish-gold and violet color. Numerous, but rather light hairlines are scattered throughout the fields. A Proofonly issue, and the next-to-last date that is generally available to collectors. Purchased as Lot 205 from an unknown sale for \$72.

1710. **1883, Proof.** 970 Proofs minted. Lightly lacquered with some iridescent toning in the lacquering. Moderately to heavily hairlined throughout the fields. Purchased by JJP from Hans Schulman's Herdegen sale, 12/73, Lot 1082, for \$625.

END OF SESSION ONE

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Three

In 1999, Part Three of the John Jay Pittman Collection will be sold at unrestricted public auction. This final sale in the Pittman Collection public auction series will consist entirely of JJP's magnificent collection of World Coins and Paper Money. JJP collected the coins of most countries that have been in existence since the 1600's, and his collection contains a fabulous array of rarities and high quality numismatic items as well as a wide selection of items of varied quality and value, making it truly a collection with "something for everyone".

Among the many highlights will be the following:

Canada: 1862 British Columbia \$20 in gold; Finest known Mint State 1889 10 Cents and

1871 50 Cents; Specimen 1936 "Dot" Cent; Complete, original 1936 Specimen "Dot" set (unique); Uncirculated 1921 5 Cents and 50 Cents; 1934 Specimen set; Gem 1919 50 Cents; Double 1858 Specimen set in original case; superb selection

of Paper Money.

Great Britain: 1662 Charles II Crown in gold; 1733 Pattern Two Guineas in Proof; 1644 Oxford

Pound in silver; 1643 Triple Unite in gold; 1746 Silver Proof set; Cased Proof sets, including gold, of 1826, 1831, 1839 and 1853; Unique 1806 Farthing struck in gold;

1732 Plain Edge Crown in Proof; 1834 William IV Crown in Proof.

Japan: 1874 Silver Proof set; 1876 Silver Proof set; 1880 Proof set including all silver

denominations and the 2, 5, 10, and 20 Yen gold.

Cuba: Proofs of 1915 and 1916 including the 1916 20 Pesos in gold.

Russia: Platinum 3 Roubles in Proof dated 1828, 1830, 1831 and 1832; Proof 1829 and

1830 6 Roubles; and Proof 1830 12 Roubles.

Australia: Adelaide gold ingot; 1887-S 5 Pounds in Proof; Proof 1887-M Half Sovereign.

South Africa: 1892 Proof set with gold; Proof sets in original cases dated 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934,

1935, 1936 and 1939.

Spain: 50 Reales (Cinquentinas) dated 1628 and 1636.

South and Central

America: Chile, 1828 "Coquimbo" Peso; Venezuela, 1875 1, 5, and 10 gold Venezolanos in Proof;

Guatemala, 1894 5 and 10 Pesos gold patterns; Peru, 1855 2 and 5 Pesos gold patterns.

Sierra Leone: Superb, complete 1791 Proof set.

And Much, Much More!

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Three, will be one of the most important sales of World Coins ever held in the United States. We invite your participation in this historic numismatic event.



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The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Two

Session Two

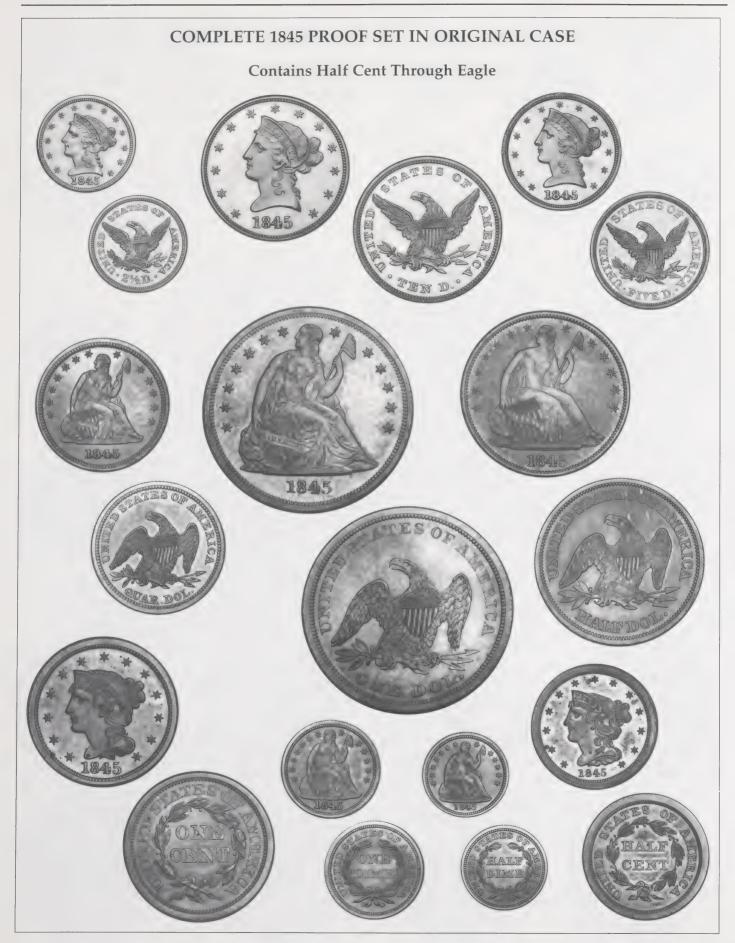
Lots 1711-2134 Thursday, May 21, 1998 6:00 P.M. Sharp

U.S. PROOF SETS

The John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part One, conducted in October 1997, featured complete Proof sets, including the gold coins, of 1843, 1844, and 1859, as well as an original gold Proof set dated 1886. This was a remarkable offering of early Proof sets and the sale marked the first time in auction history that two complete Proof sets with gold coins from the 1840's had been offered intact in their original cases of issue in the same sale. The sets were among the most popular items in the first Pittman sale and I think that most viewers were genuinely surprised, even astounded, by the quality of the individual coins in the sets. Only a few other similar sets have ever appeared at auction in the past. One of these sets was the famous King of Siam Proof set; another was the Amon Carter 1843 Proof set with gold coins that had earlier been in the Will W. Neil sale conducted by B. Max Mehl in 1947. The Richard Winsor sale of 1895 contained an original 1843 Proof set with all of the gold coins and this Winsor set may have been the same set that was offered in the Pittman sale or possibly the one in the Amon Carter sale. Now, in the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part Two, collectors will again have the opportunity to acquire several remarkable early Proof sets.

The first set is dated 1845 and is in an original wood presentation case bound in burgundy colored Morocco leather. This is not an original set in the purest sense since JJP purchased most of the coins individually. However, the gold coins undoubtedly constitute an original set and it would also seem that the Half Dime, Dime and Quarter came from the same original set. Therefore, I have decided to offer the set intact rather than break it up and sell the individual pieces. The second set in this sale is an original 1846 Proof set in the original case of issue that John acquired intact from Numismatic Gallery in 1949. It is important to note here that this is the only one of JJP's four sets in original cases from the 1840's about which it can be stated with some degree of certainty that it is an original set, i.e. that the copper, silver and gold coins contained therein were issued as a set and have remained together since the year of issue. (With the 1843 and 1844 sets offered in Pittman I, each copper and silver set was an original set as was each gold set, but it was not possible to tell whether the copper-silver and gold sets of each year were issued together; also, as mentioned, the 1845 set in this sale is clearly an assembled one.) The third set in this offering is an 1868 Proof set in a unique case that was presented to William C. Baker by Chief Coiner of the Mint, A. Louden Snowden. This set is accompanied by a letter from Snowden to Baker as well as a picture of Baker as he appeared in 1870. Although the coins in this third set are not especially high quality (they are not nearly as choice as the ones in the 1845 and 1846 sets), the supporting materials accompanying this set, as well as the story behind JJP's acquisition of it, make it one of the most interesting and memorable items in the Pittman Collection.

As numismatic history was made in October 1997 in the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part One, with the offering of the 1843 and 1844 Proof sets, it is about to be repeated here with the offering of the 1845 and 1846 Proof sets. These are two of the most famous and important items in the entire Pittman Collection. JJP treasured them greatly and displayed and talked about them at length for nearly 50 years. It is a thrill for me to be able to make them available to collectors for the first time in decades; once these last two sets are sold, it is almost certain that there will never again be a comparable offering of complete cased Proof sets from the 1840's.



COMPLETE 1845 PROOF SET IN ORIGINAL CASE



1711. 1845 Proof Set consisting of ten coins from Half Cent to Eagle, including Half Cent, Large Cent, Half Dime, Dime, Ouarter, Half Dollar, One Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle and Eagle. These coins are in an original burgundy Morocco leather covered wood case of issue which measures 129 millimeters by 87 millimeters. The plush inside lining is blue velvet and there are seven white linen lined openings in the bottom of the case for the two copper and five silver coins which are arranged in two rows. The three gold coins are in the lid of the case and are arranged with the Ten Dollar gold piece in the middle, the Quarter Eagle on the left and the Half Eagle on the right, the same configuration as in the 1843 set case offered in Pittman I. (The 1844 set is the only one of the four Pittman sets from 1843-1846 that has a slightly different case. In the 1844 case, the Ten Dollar gold piece is on the right with the Half Eagle in the middle.) JJP acquired all the coins for this set in the late 1940's and early 1950's; he obtained the case separately from an unknown source, probably Abe Kosoff. JJP purchased the coins from a number of different sources, the last coin added to the set being the Large Cent he acquired in 1954 from the DuPont sale. (This Cent replaced a "Proof" 1845 Large Cent that he had purchased earlier from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale in 1948 which turned out to be mint state.) This set was displayed by JJP for many years and everyone always had the

(incorrect) impression that it was an original set but, in fact, it is an assembled one. That fact notwithstanding, I am still offering it here as a single lot for several reasons. First of all, JJP had the set together for nearly a half century and displayed it as an "original" set. Also, the gold coins are almost certainly an original set even though they were acquired on an individual basis from the "Memorable" sale in 1948. And finally, the three smallest silver denominations, namely the Half Dime, Dime and Quarter, are also undoubtedly part of an original set, all acquired from the Adolphe Menjou sale. If the future owner wants to break up the set, that will be his or her prerogative, but I do not want to be the one to do it.

From a quality standpoint, this set may be the best of JJP's four cased Proof sets of the 1840's. Certainly, the silver is the highest quality and definitely has the prettiest toning. Those who examined and were so impressed with the color and quality of the silver coins in the 1859 set offered in Pittman I will find these 1845 silver Proofs to their liking as well since they are similar in quality and eye appeal to the 1859 Proofs. The original gold set contained in this 1845 set is also of high quality, finer overall than the 1844 gold set in Lot 833 of Pittman I, but not quite as nice as the magnificent 1843 gold set that appeared in Lot 832. However, the Ten Dollar gold piece in this 1845 set is the nicest Eagle of any of the exceedingly rare Proof Eagles in the sets from 1843-1846 and will surely be called a Gem by some viewers. The individual copper, silver and gold coins in this magnificent 1845 Proof set are graded and described as follows.

- a. 1845 Half Cent. Original, Large Berries on Reverse. Breen-1a, Gilbert-1. 83.7 grains. High Rarity-6, possibly Rarity-7. Very Choice Proof, kept from the Gem grade only by some minor carbon spots on the obverse. This Proof is almost full mint red and gold with just a few traces of faded brown. The rims are very broad and even and there is a high wire rim on the upper right obverse. Prominent repunching is visible on the 5 in the date and also at the base of the 4. Die file marks are visible in and around the letters of LIBERTY on the coronet. This has long been considered the rarest date of the Proof-only Half Cents of the 1840's, but the 1849 Small Date is somewhat more rare as a variety. Struck only in Proof; an estimated 12-15 pieces are currently known. Purchased from one of George Bauer's auctions in the 1940's as Lot 323 for \$91.
- b. 1845 Large Cent. Newcomb-14. High Rarity-6. Very Choice Proof, a virtual Gem. Nearly full mint red obverse, faded mint red and brown reverse. Mirror fields, but there is not a great deal of depth to them, typical of Large Cents of this era. There is just a trace of violet toning and, as is the case with the 1845 Half Cent, there are several spots on the obverse and a few pinpoint ones on the reverse. There are no hairlines or marks of significance, and overall, this is a very attractive coin. There is minor doubling on the letters of AMERICA in the reverse legend. The rim is broad everywhere except just below the date where it is somewhat narrow. This is a Proof-only variety; furthermore, all Proofs of this year are this same N-14 variety. According to Large Cent specialist, Denis Loring, only 12-15 Proof 1845 Cents are known. JJP purchased this coin from the Anderson-DuPont sale, 9/25/54, Lot 859, for \$165.
- c. 1845 Half Dime. Gem Proof. A superb, pristine specimen that is essentially "as struck" with the exception of the addition of magnificent toning. This coin is as nearly perfect as any Proof Half Dime of this decade in existence, and it is equal in all respects to the finest of the Proof Half Dimes that appeared in the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part One, in October 1997. This coin is fully struck with a sharp square edge and high wire rim. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin has radiant proof luster under exquisite deep blue, violet and reddish-gold toning. The obverse is more deeply toned than the reverse, but the two sides are equally beautiful. There is a lint mark from the second S of STATES to the top leaves on the right side of the wreath, and there is a tiny die lump in the field between the 10th and 11th stars. The 5 in the date is higher than the other three numerals and barely misses touching the base. The 1845 is one of the most often available Proof Half Dimes of the 1840's, comparable to the 1849; only the 1846 is indisputably less rare. Approximately 8-10 examples are thought to exist. This coin was purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Adolphe Menjou Collection, 6/15/50, Lot 113, for \$24. It was purchased at the same time as the Proof 1845 Dime and Quarter that follow and, more than likely, all three pieces came from the same original Proof set. The other silver coins in this set, however, were acquired elsewhere.
- d. **1845 Dime. Gem Proof.** Boldly repunched date, especially noticeable on 84, but also visible to a lesser degree on the 5. The date slants down slightly from left to right. The coin is fully struck with deep mirror fields and a prominent wire rim around much of the obverse. As was the case with the Large Cent, the normally broad rim narrows below and to the left of the date. This is an absolutely extraordinary coin, possibly the

- finest known Proof Dime of this date and one of the highest quality Proof Liberty Seated Dimes of the decade. The colors in the toning are exceptional, blending light to medium reddishgold with violet and electric blue. The reverse of this coin is especially beautiful and must be seen to be believed. First of all, from a quality standpoint, it is absolutely perfect. Second, the beauty of the toning is beyond my ability to describe it adequately. I can only say that no coin in the entire Pittman Collection surpasses it (and the collection obviously encompasses some of the most beautifully toned Proof coins in existence). The obverse is also very high quality, although there is one tiny planchet depression near the rock by the 1st star and a faint hairline from the 2nd star to the rock. There are also several tiny lint marks in the fields. With the exception of the 1841, the 1845 is at least as rare as any other Proof Dime of the 1840's; only 5 or 6 Proofs exist. Like the Half Dime, this Dime was purchased by JJP from the Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 198, for \$37. Starr, Lovejoy and Eliasberg had Proofs of this date; Norweb, Garrett and James Stack did not. The National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution also has an example. That accounts for just five pieces, but it is always possible that one or two others may exist.
- e. 1845 Quarter. Very Choice Proof. The date is boldly double punched, prominently so on 845 where the under-numerals are clearly visible to the left of the correctly placed ones. The strike is absolutely full with every star showing its full radial lines and Liberty's head also very bold. The coin is beautifully toned with the obverse mostly a medium reddish-gold color with blue and violet at the periphery. The reverse is equally beautiful, but somewhat different in color with a deep reddish-gold center turning to blue at the border. On the obverse, there are two parallel planchet lines in the right obverse field and there are also planchet lines on the reverse that were not eliminated by the minting process. There are also numerous raised die scratches near the denomination, both in the field around and above the letters, as well as at the denticles below. There is a tiny planchet chip or depression to the right of the base of F in OF. The fields are deeply mirrorlike with only a few light hairlines, and the coin is really very close to the Gem category. Like all Proof Quarters of this decade, the 1845 Quarter is a great rarity with the number extant not exceeding 5 or 6 pieces. One is in the Smithsonian Institution and the only other one offered at public auction in many years is the Eliasberg coin which was somewhat inferior to this coin in terms of overall quality. Along with the Half Dime and Dime included in this set, this Proof 1845 Quarter was purchased from the Menjou Collection sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery on 6/15/50. It was offered in that great sale as Lot 715 and realized \$30.
- f. 1845 Half Dollar. Gem Proof. This is an absolutely fantastic coin, equal in every respect to the 1842, 1847 and 1848 offered in Session One. The coin is fully struck with a sharp square edge, deep mirror fields and incredible toning, medium reddish-gold and violet in the centers turning to deep blue at the rims. The date is low and level with the 5 very close to the denticles. Repunching is visible on the lower right side of the base of the 1 and there is an errant raised rectangular shaped lump below and between 18 of the date, possibly a remnant of a misplaced numeral. Under the superb toning, there are a couple of very faint hairlines and there are also a few lines that were present in the planchet at the time of striking, i.e. they are "as made". Purchased privately from James Kelly in 1946 for \$54.

The 1845 Half Dollar in Proof is one of the great Liberty Seated Proof rarities of the 1840's. It is the rarest silver denomination of this year and it is also one of the two rarest Proof Half Dollars of the decade along with the 1840. All 1845 silver denominations, except the Silver Dollar, were struck in Proof only for inclusion in the 10-15 Proof sets issued that year. I have been able to confirm the existence of only four distinct examples of the Half Dollar but, of course, it is always possible that one or more additional specimens exist. Following is a list of the Proof 1845 Half Dollars known to me.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; James Kelly (1946).
- 3. Louis Eliasberg: 1929; John H. Clapp.
- 4. Stack's 3/65: 447; "World's Greatest Collection": 273; F.C.C. Boyd.
- g. 1845 Silver Dollar. Gem Proof. Boldly repunched 84 in the date. This Proof Silver Dollar is essentially perfect and is unquestionably the finest Proof Dollar of the decade that I have ever seen. It is fully struck with a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields that are immaculate and pristine. The few lines present in the fields are actually planchet lines that were not eliminated by the minting process; they are not hairlines. The toning is as extraordinary and perfect as the technical quality of the surfaces, a superb medium multicolored iridescent blend of reddish-gold, which is the predominant color, and considerable violet and blue. Every star is boldly defined with all of its radial lines, and the head and foot of Liberty are extremely sharp. All of the eagle's feathers and talons are also fully struck. This is possibly the most "common" silver denomination of the year since, in addition to those struck for the 10-15 Proof sets of the year, a very small number of extra Silver Dollars were also minted. Relatively few have survived the last 150 plus years, however, and only 8-10 examples can be accounted for today; the 1845 is exceeded in rarity among the Proof Dollars of this decade only by the 1841 and 1849 and possibly the 1843. JJP purchased this coin from the 1949 ANA Convention sale, Lot 223, for \$95. Four years earlier, it had appeared in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale as Lot 133 where it realized \$150.
- h. 1845 Quarter Eagle. Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields, slightly hazy surfaces, and very rich, yellow gold color. There are a few faint hairlines in the fields as well as one on the neck of Liberty. There is a tiny raised lump in the field between stars 12 and 13 and a lint mark in the field by star 11. The date is somewhat granular, especially on the 18. This Quarter Eagle, and the Half Eagle and Eagle that follow, are part of an original 1845 gold Proof set that appeared in the so-called "Memorable" Collection sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery on 3/2/48. The coins were offered individually in that sale and JJP was the successful bidder on all three of them, thereby keeping the set intact. This coin appeared as Lot 105 and realized \$160. Earlier, the set of three gold coins was in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

In my opinion, of the approximately 10-15 Proof sets minted in 1845, only 4 or 5 of them included the gold coins. I can account for only three of the Quarter Eagles today. However, since there are four known examples of the Eagle, at least one other Quarter Eagle must have been struck and so it is possible that one or two others exist somewhere. Following is a list of the known specimens.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 105; Col. E. H. R. Green.
- 3. Superior 2/91: 2595; Ed Trompeter; Bowers and Ruddy (Williams Collection) 9/79: 1815. According to the Williams auction catalogue, this specimen, "Reposed in a bank vault in England for over a century", and was unknown to numismatists in this country until appearing in that sale.

i. 1845 Half Eagle. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and ultra-rich yellow gold color. Light to moderate hairlines on both sides, including several rather noticeable ones on the obverse in front of the face and one on Liberty's cheek. There are also quite a few hairlines under the eagle's wings. On the reverse, there are noticeable die scratches or file marks in the left field along the eagle's leg feathers and the first three vertical wing feathers closest to the body. This is undoubtedly a Proof-only variety, and the same reverse die was used to strike the Proof Half Eagles of 1844, 1846 and 1848 contained in the Pittman Collection. In terms of its overall quality and eye appeal, this coin is very similar to the 1846 Half Eagle in the next lot as well as the Proof 1842 Half Eagle that appeared in Pittman I as Lot 955. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's "Memorable" sale, Lot 347, for \$175. Earlier, it was in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

At the present time, only three Proof Half Eagles of this date can be accounted for with certainty, although it is possible that another one or two specimens exist since I am of the opinion that 4 or 5 of the 10-15 Proof sets struck included the three gold denominations. Following are the pedigrees of the three known specimens.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 347; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 3. Superior 2/91: 2596; Ed Trompeter; Auction '84 (Paramount): 906; Bowers and Ruddy 9/79: 1816. Part of an original gold Proof set that remained in England for more than a century.

Since there are four known Proof Eagles of this date, it is almost a certainty that at least four examples of both the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle were also struck since the gold coins would have been minted only as complete sets. However, at the present time, only three each of the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle are known.

j. 1845 Eagle. Very Choice Proof. This is a very handsome specimen, distinctly finer, in terms of its overall quality, than the other two gold denominations in this set. It is also of higher quality than the Eagles in the 1843, 1844 and 1846 sets, and it is even slightly finer than the marvelous 1848 offered later in this session. I have had the privilege of handling two other Eagles of this date in Proof (the Garrett and Williams Collection sale specimens) and this piece is also decidedly superior to either of those two examples. It is very sharply struck with deep mirror fields, but it lacks the sharp square edge of the Half Eagle. The color is an ultra-rich yellow gold. There are some very faint hairlines in the fields and several on the end of Liberty's chin. A few small lint marks are present on the reverse, including one above the upright of the E in TEN. Purchased by JJP from the 1948 "Memorable" sale (Numismatic Gallery, 3/2/48), Lot 548, for \$210. Prior to appearing in this sale, which was comprised of coins from the collection of "J.F. Bell" (the "nom-de coin" of Jake Shapiro), this Eagle, along with the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle, was in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

At the present time, four examples of the Proof 1845 Eagle can be accounted for, one more than of either the Quarter Eagle or Half Eagle of the same date. In all likelihood, either 4 or 5 Proof sets were minted in 1845 that contained the gold coins as well as the copper and silver ones. Following is a list of the four known specimens together with their pedigrees.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 548; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 3. Superior 2/91: 2597; Ed Trompeter; Bowers and Ruddy 9/79: 1817. Part of an original gold Proof set that remained in England for more than a century.
- 4. John Work Garrett: 1667.



ORIGINAL 1846 PROOF SET IN CASE OF ISSUE



1712. 1846 Original Proof Set consisting of ten coins from Half Cent through Eagle, including Half Cent, Large Cent, Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar, One Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle and Eagle. The coins are housed in their original presentation case of issue. It is a wood case covered with burgundy Morocco leather and it has a blue velvet interior with white linen lining the ten openings. The copper and silver coins are configured in the bottom of the case in two rows, the large silver denominations in the back row nearest the hinge, the copper issues flanking the two smallest silver coins at the front. The openings for the gold coins are in the lid of the case with the Eagle in the center, the Quarter Eagle on the left and the Half Eagle on the right. This is the same case layout that was used for the 1843 and 1845 sets, but not the 1844 set which had the Eagle on the right. The case measures 129 by 87 millimeters and has a pointed clasp.

Of JJP's four complete cased Proof sets dated 1843, 1844, 1845 and 1846, this 1846 set is the only one of the four which he purchased as an intact original set. The 1845 set offered in the preceding lot was mostly assembled, perhaps from two partial sets plus other individual coins, and the 1843 and 1844 sets which were sold in Pittman I consisted of original copper and silver sets paired with original gold sets, but without the certainty that the copper and silver sets actually

belonged with the gold sets with which they were paired. JJP purchased this set from Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) on 7/20/49 for \$750. At one time, JJP owned another 1846 original Proof set without the gold which he had purchased from Spinks of London, England, on 4/6/51 for the equivalent of \$210. He later traded this second 1846 Proof set to Max L. Justus in 1959 along with a number of other coins to obtain some of the Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles sold in Pittman I. The Dr. Charles Ruby Collection sale, Part I (Superior 2/74), also contained a complete 1846 set that may have been an original set. I later purchased it for Paramount International Coin Corp. in late 1975 and it was first offered for sale in Paramount's Rare Coin List No. 13 in the Spring of 1976. It was sold to a collector and later broken-up, a fate that has befallen virtually all of the original Proof sets of the 1840's. I do not know what happened to the duplicate Pittman set that went to Max Justus, but it is possible that it is the same set that ended up in the hands of Dr. Ruby, despite Walter Breen's claims to the contrary. Saul Teichman pointed out to me that the John Adams literature book mentions that there was a complete 1846 U.S. Proof set with gold in Ed Frossard's auction of November 4, 1892. Since that was the only other appearance of a complete 1846 Proof set with gold in the history of American auctions, there is the strong possibility that this Pittman set offered here is a reappearance of the set from the Frossard sale. Following is a complete description of each of the ten coins in this outstanding, and undoubtedly unique, original 1846 Proof set.

- a. 1846 Half Cent. Original, Large Berries On Reverse. Breen-1, Gilbert-1. 83.8 grains. Rarity-6. Choice Proof. Brown with no trace of original mint red, although there is some attractive dark greenish-gold toning around the date, legend and stars. There are also traces of minor verdigris in the same areas, the most notable being a spot below the 1 in the date. The broad rim has a partial wire edge at the top of the obverse. There are no hairlines or significant marks on the devices or in the fields, and no carbon spots of note either. However, there is a scratch from the rim to the area between TE of UNITED. There is also a very tiny rim bump on the reverse at K-6. Very rare, as are all Proof-only Half Cents from the 1840's; only an estimated 18-22 Proof 1846 Original Half Cents are known.
- b. **1846**, Large Cent. Newcomb-22. Gem Proof. Red and brown. A great deal of original mint color is present around the devices, legend, and date; the rest of the coin is faded to a medium brown color. There are no hairlines or marks on the coin to speak of, but there are a few small carbon spots on the obverse at stars 1, 2, and 11-13, as well as a few near the date. There is just a trace of medium greenish-gold iridescence near the border on the reverse. Fully struck with mirror fields and edge and a partial wire rim at the top of the obverse. This is a Proof-only variety and, according to Large Cent expert, Denis Loring, only 9-12 examples of the variety are known. There are also 7 or 8 examples of N-24, the other Proof-only Large Cent variety of this year.
- c. 1846 Half Dime. Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with a sharp wire rim, bold head, star and foot, and deeply mirrored surfaces. The toning is an attractive mottled russet, gold and blue, similar on both sides of the coin. There are a few minor contact marks in the obverse fields, as well as a few faint hairlines, but the overall appearance of the coin is still excellent. There is a raised triangular die lump in the field between the 10th and 11th stars. This is the most famous date Half Dime of the decade due to its rarity as a business strike. However, in Proof, it is actually the most common Half Dime of the 1840's. At least a dozen Proofs of this date are known, possibly even as many as 15-18. Since it is probable that Proof 1846 Half Dimes were issued only in the Proof sets (there was no collector demand for Half Dimes in 1846 and thus no reason to make them available on an individual basis), it is reasonable to assume that more Proof sets were struck and issued in 1846 than in any other year of the decade, possibly as many as 20-25 sets. (Even with this increased mintage of copper and silver Proof sets, however, it still seems likely, based upon the number of gold coins known, that only 4 or 5 of the sets were issued with the three gold coins.) As is the case with virtually all Proof coins of the 1840's, this is a Proof-only variety; in other words, the dies used to strike this coin were never used for business strikes. Furthermore, all Proofs are this same variety which is easily recognized by the position of the shield. On Proofs, the tip points to the top of the 1 in the date; on business strikes, it points to the right of the 1.
- d. **1846 Dime. Gem Proof.** Virtually identical to the Half Dime in terms of color and general appearance, but this piece is of higher quality since it has no marks or hairlines in the fields or on the devices. The strike is absolutely full and there is a sharp square edge and partial wire rim on both sides. The fields are mirrorlike and the coin is covered with very attractive medium russet, gold and blue toning, rather mottled, like the Half Dime, but very pretty. There is a long raised die scratch in the field from the bottom of the cap to the drapery. Prominent recutting is visible on 46 of the date. Tiny triangle or crescent shaped die lumps appear around the points of some stars; they are especially noticeable at stars 3, 4, 5 and 13. There is a prominent lint mark in the field that touches both stars 6 and 7 as well as a denticle. In terms of its overall appearance, technical quality and eye appeal, this piece is outstanding, certainly one of the finest Proof 1846 Dimes in existence. As is the

- case with all of the silver denominations of this year, the Dime is the most "common" issue of its denomination struck during the 1840's. Proof 1846 Dimes were apparently struck only for inclusion in the 20-25 Proof sets of the year and approximately half of them (10-12) still can be accounted for today.
- e. 1846 Quarter. Proof. This coin has the look of a much higher grade specimen, but close inspection quickly reveals a prominent scratch on the obverse that runs from the left across the figure of Liberty, then angles down from the leg to the rim. The scratch is quite deep and is certainly detracting. The reverse of the coin is at least Choice, possibly even Very Choice, and so the obverse scratch is indeed an unfortunate impairment. The coin is fully struck and the fields are mirrorlike, but not especially deep. The toning on this Quarter is nearly identical to the other silver coins in the set, a very attractive mottled blend of russet, blue and gold. This is the most common Proof Quarter of the decade and it is also somewhat more common than the Dime and Half Dollar of this year. Of the estimated 20-25 pieces struck for inclusion in the Proof sets of 1846 (I doubt any additional specimens were struck since there would have been no reason to mint them due to a lack of collector demand for Quarters), an estimated 12-15 Proof 1846 Quarters still exist. At one time, in the early 1950's, JJP owned several Proofs of this issue (4-5, based on his notes). On 4/15/53 he purchased yet another Proof 1846 Quarter from B. Max Mehl at the same time as he purchased his Proof 1852 Quarter offered in the first session of this sale. He paid \$50 for the 1852 and \$40 for the 1846, but he subsequently decided not to keep the 1846 and returned it to Mehl for a refund. JJP then noted in his ledger, "Returned. Have too many." One of his duplicates was sold with the complete copper and silver Proof set to Max Justus in 1959. He must have sold his other Proof 1846 Quarters as well since this specimen offered here is the only one that remained in his collection.
- f. 1846 Half Dollar. Choice Proof. Fully struck with bold stars, head and foot of Liberty, and all of the eagle's feathers and talons clearly defined. The fields are more mirrorlike than they are on the other silver coins in the set, and the toning is just a little deeper, albeit with the same blend of colors, namely medium russet, blue and gold. There is one nick in the right obverse field and a scratch above TATE of STATES on the reverse as well as several other minor nicks and scratches in the legend and on the rim. These coins fit very tightly into the wood case and I would be willing to bet that these nicks and scratches (and the scratch across the obverse of the Quarter as well) were acquired in the distant past when someone used a sharp instrument trying to extract the coins from the case. I know that I spent a number of very nerve wracking hours myself removing all of these 1843-1846 Proof coins from their wood cases, and it took a steady hand and some good advice from Tom Mulvaney and Don Slouffman to be able to remove them without damage. Earlier efforts were apparently not as successful and the results were the marks and scratches seen on several of these coins. This Half Dollar also has a few very light hairlines in the fields, but the overall appearance of this coin is much better than my detailed description makes it sound. It is really an attractive, Choice specimen that almost everyone will find very appealing. Although struck in the same quantity as the other silver denominations in this set (except the Silver Dollar, of which a small additional number were minted to be sold on an individual basis), the Half Dollar seems to be more rare than either the Half Dime or the Quarter and of comparable overall rarity to the Dime. Approximately 10-12 specimens still exist, but even that small number makes the 1846 one of the two most often seen Proof Half Dollars of the decade along with the 1847. Obviously, however, with only 10-12 known specimens, it is still in the extremely rare category.

g. 1846 Silver Dollar. Repunched Date. Very Choice Proof. The repunching is very prominent at 46, barely visible at the 8 and not visible at all at the 1. The original date was punched far too low and only partially effaced before the numerals were punched into the final position. This piece is very similar in overall appearance to the other silver denominations in the set, hardly surprising since they have been kept in the same velvet lined wood case as a complete intact set for over 150 years. The strike is very sharp and the coin has a square edge, wire rim and deep mirror fields. The toning is an attractive medium mottled russet, gold and blue color. There are some light marks and hairlines in the fields, but overall this Dollar is nicer than any of the other silver coins except the Dime. There is a trace of carbon above the eagle's head in the field and also at E of STATES and the first A of AMERICA. There is also a touch of carbon on the obverse rim and in the field just above Liberty's head. There is a small scratch from the wire rim into the field between stars 11 and 12. (The nature of this scratch, the fact that similar scratches are seen on the Quarter and Half Dollar, and my own firsthand knowledge of how difficult these coins are to remove from the case, make me think that this scratch was acquired when someone used a sharp instrument in an attempt to remove the coin from the case.) In addition to those specimens struck for the Proof sets (my estimate is that 20-25 such sets were minted), a few additional Proof Silver Dollars were also struck to satisfy the demand for the denomination since it is apparent that Silver Dollars, as well as Half Cents and Large Cents, had a small collector base as far back as the 1840's even though such a base did not exist for the other denominations. Perhaps as many as 40-60 Proof 1846 Silver Dollars were struck with 20-25 specimens still in existence today, although some experts estimate the number extant to be even greater.

Beginning as early as 1943, JJP formed a close relationship with famed Ft. Worth dealer, B. Max Mehl. JJP purchased some coins from Mehl privately and many coins from Mehl's various mail bid auctions beginning with the Fred Olson sale in 1944 and continuing through the last sales that Mehl conducted in the mid-1950's. After years of dealing with JJP, Mehl recognized that JJP was no ordinary collector but rather one of the most knowledgeable people in numismatics. On numerous occasions, he sent preliminary copy from his auctions for JJP to proofread, correct and make comments concerning the rarity of various pieces, especially Proofs. Now, Mehl was the ultimate self-promoter and so he rarely, if ever, acknowledged the existence of other dealers or the numismatic expertise of others. JJP was a notable exception, however, and in his catalogue of the Jerome Kern Collection for his Golden Anniversary sale in 1950, Mehl paid JJP the ultimate compliment by quoting him in the description of Lot 816 which was a Proof 1846 Silver Dollar with the repunched date. In his catalogue description, Mehl wrote the following. "In a letter received from Mr. J.J. Pittman of Rochester, N.Y., whom I consider one of the keenest students of U.S. proof coins, he writes as follows: 'In my humble opinion a brilliant proof 1846 recut date silver dollar is worth at least \$300*** I personally believe it is far more rare than the 1851 or 1852 silver dollars.*** In some catalogs this date variety has been variously cataloged as the 1846 over '42, 1846 over '44, and 1846 over '45.*** It is very evident that the date was cut over another date***'."

h. **1846 Quarter Eagle. Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck except for a weakness on the eagle's left leg. The rims are broad on both sides of the coin except for a noticeable narrowing below the date. The edge is sharp and square and the fields are highly mirrorlike. The color is a rich, medium yellow gold. There are some light hairlines in the fields and a scratch that runs from the hair bun to the denticles. (This scratch may have occurred when someone tried to remove the coin from the wood case.) A few small contact marks are present by stars 1 and 2. Raised die scratches or file marks run diagonally from the base of the 6 to the denticles at the right; they also run along the denticles up toward the 13th star. In addition to the prominent scratch behind the hair bun, there are a few other much lighter ones in the obverse field as well as one on the reverse by the U in UNITED. I have tried to describe the coin as accurately as possible but, in so doing, I may have made

it sound less attractive than it really is. This is actually an attractive coin that, despite its "problems", is likely to be graded Choice by many

Although Proof set production in 1846 was greater than it was in other years of the decade (perhaps as many as 20-25 sets), the increased production does not seem to have applied to the gold coins. Based on the number of specimens known, it is probable that the number of sets issued with gold coins remained at only 4 or 5, the same as for other years of the decade. At the present time, only four Proof Quarter Eagles of this date can be located.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. American Numismatic Society.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery (1949). Probably from Ed Frossard's November 4, 1892 sale. Part of a complete original cased set.
- 4. Superior 2/91: 2667; Ed Trompeter; Louis Eliasberg: 136; John H. Clapp; John S. Jenks: 5810; W.B. Whitmore (Chapman, 1906).
- i. 1846 Half Eagle. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Large Date. Almost identical in overall quality to the Quarter Eagle. Very sharply struck with a square edge, mirror fields and rich yellow gold color. There are light to moderate hairlines as well as a few faint scratches. On the reverse, there are a number of die scratches or file marks in the left field at the eagle's leg and the three lower wing feathers closest to the body. This is the same reverse die that was used to strike the Proof Half Eagles of 1844, 1845 and 1848, all of which are also in the Pittman Collection. This die was not used for business strikes of this or any year and so this Proof 1846 Half Eagle is a Proof-only variety.

It is my belief that only 4 or 5 of the 20-25 Proof sets minted in 1846 were issued with the three gold coins. Four specimens each of the Quarter Eagle and Eagle can be accounted for today, but I am aware of the existence of only three examples of the Half Eagle. Since the mintage of each of the gold coins was the same, at least one additional Proof 1846 Half Eagle was struck, but whether or not it still exists is a matter of conjecture, and until such time, if ever, that it reappears on the numismatic market, this specimen offered here in the Pittman Collection is the only one that is available to collectors.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. American Numismatic Society.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery (1949). Probably from Ed Frossard's November 4, 1892 sale. Part of a complete original cased set.
- 1846 Eagle. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Fully struck; light to moderate hairlines throughout the deeply mirrored fields, but none is as serious as the scratches on the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle even though there are considerably more of them. The coin, however, is very clean in terms of marks and the color is similar to that of the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle, namely a rich yellow gold. Die file marks are present by the denticles near the 3rd star. There is also a lint mark at the 8th star and two small lint marks under the left wing of the eagle. Quality-wise, this 1846 is probably the least choice of the five Proof Eagles from the 1840's in the Pittman Collection (the four in the complete Proof sets plus the 1848 offered later in Session Two), but it is still a presentable example of an extreme rarity, one of only two Proof 1846 Eagles available to collectors. A total of four examples are known and these may represent the entire mintage since there are only four or fewer pieces known of each of the gold Proofs of the 1840's. Of course, there is the possibility that another example exists, if a fifth set was issued, but the following four specimens are the only ones I can locate.
 - 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
 - 2. American Numismatic Society.
 - 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Numismatic Gallery (1949). Probably from Ed Frossard's November 4, 1892 sale which contained a complete 1846 Proof set with gold, the only such set known to have been offered at auction in the past. Part of a complete original cased set.
 - 4. Superior 9/93: 1670; Auction '90 (David W. Akers): 1922; Louis Eliasberg: 675; John H. Clapp; Elmer S. Sears: 1221.

ORIGINAL 1868 PROOF SET IN SPECIAL PRESENTATION CASE

Contains One Cent Through Silver Dollar



1713. 1868 Proof set in original presentation case. The set consists of ten coins from One Cent to One Dollar, including the Indian Head Cent, Two Cent piece, Nickel Three Cent piece, Silver Three Cent piece, Half Dime, Nickel Five Cent piece, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar and Silver Dollar. The case is royal purple velvet with an ornate brass clasp. The outside of the case is in generally excellent condition although it is wearing through slightly on the edges and near the clasp. An octagonal metal plate is attached in the center of the case and is inscribed, "To /Wm. C. Baker: Esquire:/Treasurer/First City Troop/from/A.L.S. (A. Loudon Snowden) 1868." The inside of the case is extremely high quality and is the same royal purple color as the outside. The ten coins are held in a hinged inner board so that the coins can be seen from both sides. This hinged board that holds the coins is sewn into the case like the page of a book. This case is much more "modern" in its concept than the wood cases for the 1843-1846 Proof sets and is undoubtedly a one-of-a-kind case made especially for this particular presentation from Snowden to Baker.

JJP dearly loved this set and delighted in displaying it and showing it to his many friends. It is not that the coins are rare, or that their quality is particularly high, but the set has all of the other elements that JJP loved most about collecting. It is a item with a great story behind it, a story about real people from a period which interested JJP greatly, the Civil War era. In the late 1970's, JJP was informed by an acquaintance that the acquaintance knew of an individual living in the Florida panhandle who had a set of coins in which JJP undoubtedly would be interested. The acquaintance did not have much information but, from what he understood, the item was an 1868 Proof set in an original case. He also informed JJP that the owner was very cautious and secretive, perhaps even a little eccentric. He felt the deal was genuine, but he could offer JJP no guarantees. The person who owned the set was a young woman and she wanted to meet JJP and transact the sale in an isolated

location, the parking lot of an old church. JJP was to come alone and the woman would accept payment only in cash. JJP was, of course, very interested and intrigued by the whole situation, but the conditions under which the transaction had to occur made him a little apprehensive. IIP arrived early (a rarity in itself!) with sufficient cash in hand (\$5,000) to complete the transaction. He wanted to check out the area to see if he was being "set-up". Satisfied he was not, he waited, but his nervousness did not completely disappear. About five minutes after the agreed upon time. the woman raced up in her shiny silver Porsche, the tires squealing as she turned into the lot. JJP said he felt less apprehensive when he saw she was driving an expensive car. She asked JJP for identification (he showed his driver's license) and then let him examine the item she wanted to sell, this 1868 Proof set. They agreed on the price, \$3,000, and JJP paid in cash as the woman had requested. After the sale was completed, almost as an afterthought, the woman turned to JJP and told him that she also had a photo and a letter that went with the set and that he could have them if he wanted them. After seeing the letter and the photo, shown here, JIP immediately recognized that he had made a very special purchase and this set always remained one of his favorite items in his collection. JJP never remembered the woman's name, perhaps he never even knew it, and he always referred to her only as "the stringy haired platinum blonde in the silver Porsche". When the brief transaction was concluded, she jumped back in her Porsche and her tires again squealed as she raced out of the lot.

Almost everyone who has seen the letter has commented on the beauty and precision of Snowden's handwriting. The letter is written on U.S. Mint stationery and dated March 20, 1868. It is addressed to W.C. Baker, Esq., and reads,

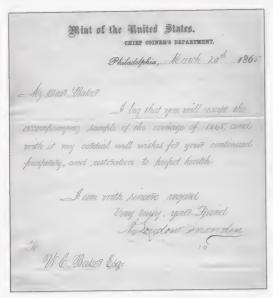
"My Dear Baker

I beg that you will accept the accompanying sample of the coinage of 1868, and with it my cordial well wishes for your continued prosperity, and restoration to perfect health.

I am with sincere regard

Very truly, your Friend

A. Loudon Snowden".







Following is a description of each of the ten coins in this set.

- a. 1868 Indian Head Cent. Very Choice Proof. 600+ Proofs minted. This would easily be a Gem if it were not for two verdigris spots on the obverse, one on the rim between the 1st and 2nd feathers, the other in the field in front of the throat. The reverse is rotated approximately 150 degrees. The coin has superb multicolored iridescent gold, violet and blue-green toning as well as considerable mint red. There is one tiny hairline on the face, but the coin is otherwise very clean and free of marks or hairlines.
- b. 1868 Two Cent Piece. Very Choice Proof. 600+ Proofs minted. Almost identical in overall quality and appearance to the Indian Head Cent, this Two Cent piece is kept from the Gem category only by a sizable green verdigris spot at the bottom of the middle stripe in the shield. There are also a few tiny pinpoint carbon spots on both sides. The color is beautiful mint red and gold with violet highlights.
- c. 1868 Nickel Three Cent Piece. Proof. 600+ Proofs minted. Hazy surfaces with light golden toning. Numerous spots on both sides. Huge scratch from the rim past the right side of the second A in AMERICA to the hair. Smaller scratch in the field by the first A in AMERICA.
- d. 1868 Silver Three Cent Piece. Proof. 600+ Proofs minted. Mottled toning that is dark gray and gold in color. Very sharply struck. Lint mark in the field below and to the left of the first A in AMERICA. No really noticeable hairlines or marks, just dark and dull surfaces from storage in the case. Possibly deserving of a higher grade than I have assigned it.
- e. 1868 Half Dime. Proof. 600 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge and a very broad rim on the reverse. Dark and dull gray, russet and gold color. There are some light scratches above Liberty's head and a longer, deeper one running diagonally down past the head through the pole into the field.
- f. 1868 Nickel Five Cent Piece. Proof. 600 Proofs minted. This coin would grade considerably higher if it were not for several prominent green corrosion spots on the obverse. The coin has attractive light reddish-golden toning and no marks or hairlines, just the aforementioned spots.

- g. 1868 Dime. Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. 600 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a broad rim and a high wire edge. Attractive medium blue, green and reddish-gold toning. The surfaces are quite clean with only a few light hairlines and no contact marks. There is, however, one tiny hairline scratch on the very broad rim above I in UNITED. There is also a tiny lint mark by the upper left serif of the 1 in the date. This is an attractive coin, much more so than the Silver Three Cent piece and Half Dime.
- h. 1868 Quarter. Choice Proof. 600 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge, wire rim and mirror fields that are just a little dull from storage. Attractive medium to deep russet and multicolored iridescent toning with some dark carbon-like areas on the reverse rim. Almost nothing in the way of marks or hairlines, but not a great deal of "life" or luster.
- i. 1868 Half Dollar. Choice Proof. 600 Proofs minted. A beautiful coin with excellent toning; kept from a higher grade by a prominent scratch in the lower right obverse field by Liberty's foot. The coin is fully struck with sharp stars and full head and foot of Liberty. The toning is especially nice, a multicolored iridescent blend of violet, blue-green and gold. There is only a partial drapery at Liberty's elbow due to extensive lapping of the dies. Some faint hairlines are noticeable in the right obverse field under the toning. The reverse is extremely choice and very close to Gem quality.
- . 1868 Silver Dollar. Very Choice Proof. 600 Proofs minted. The finest of the silver coins in the set despite a scratch across the rim past the right side of the 8th star to the Liberty cap. (Without this scratch, the coin would easily be a Gem). Very sharply struck with full head and foot of Liberty and very sharp stars. The edge is square and the coin has a partial wire rim as well as mirror fields. The toning is especially attractive, a medium multicolored iridescent blend of reddish-gold, violet and blue. There are a few very light hairlines in the right obverse field under the toning, but it is really only the aforementioned scratch that keeps this coin from being a full Gem.

U.S. QUARTER EAGLES

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1802 QUARTER EAGLE



1714. 1802, Choice Uncirculated. Usually referred to as an "overdate", namely "1802/1". Typical strike for the type and the date, i.e. weak in the centers, the weakness especially noticeable at the eagle's neck, the top of the shield and in the hair around Liberty's ear. Well centered; light to medium adjustment marks at the left obverse rim, but very heavy ones across the hair, including one that extends to the corner of Liberty's eye. The reverse is very nice in all respects except for the strike. On the obverse, there are some light hairlines in the fields on both sides of the head. The luster is very good and the color is an attractive medium greenish-gold. As is the case with



most examples of this so-called overdate, there is no sign of a 1 under the 2, just a thin diagonal line connecting the ball of the 2 to the diagonal. This is the second most common issue of the type after the 1807, slightly more common than the 1804 variety with 14 stars on the reverse. However, all Quarter Eagles of this type are very rare in mint state, far more so than their Half Eagle counterparts. JJP purchased this coin on his return from the Farouk sale when he stopped in England for a short visit. He acquired it from A.H. Baldwin & Son in March 1954 for 25 pounds which was equivalent at that time to approximately \$70 U.S.

EXTREMELY RARE 1804 13 STARS QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only 9-12 Known Specimens



1715. **1804, 13 Stars On Reverse. Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck and well centered with fully prooflike fields, superb luster, and rich coppery gold color with some violet toning highlights. There are light adjustment marks at places on the obverse rim and also across the tip of the truncation of Liberty's bust. Unfortunately, along



with its many attributes which would otherwise place it at or near the top of the list of the finest known specimens of this extremely rare variety, this coin also has some serious problems. The most detracting is the number "10" that has been scratched in the obverse field in front of the neck and chin; there is also a tiny punch mark in the field

continued top of next page

1715 continued

just to the right of it. There is a long scratch in the left obverse field near stars 2-5, another long scratch from the arrow feathers on the reverse to the rim, and some other light scratches around U and the arrowheads. Even with these problems, however, the coin has excellent eye appeal due to its great color and luster and minimal wear. Purchased by JJP from Stack's Charles W. Neumoyer Collection sale, 5/60, Lot 2352, for \$620 against an estimate of only \$400.

The 13 Star Reverse variety of 1804 is extremely rare; in fact, in terms of the total number of specimens known, I consider this to be the rarest Quarter Eagle, more rare than the legendary 1841 and 1854-S. It even bears favorable comparison to such famous Half Eagle rarities as the 1815, 1819 and 1828, among others, and yet, because of its variety status, the 1804 13 Stars Quarter Eagle has not been accorded anywhere near the level of respect it deserves as a great rarity. Ed Price, a specialist on varieties and die states of pre-1808 Half Dimes, Dimes and Quarter Eagles, related some important information on this extremely rare issue to me in a letter dated September 23, 1997. In addition to the most complete pedigree listing yet compiled (see below), he had a number of interesting comments to make about this issue when he stated, "While there may well be others, I believe that the variety is a true Rarity-7. I am part way through a study of significant early Quarter Eagle collections. I have defined "significant" as including at least 8 of the 15 known varieties (of Quarter Eagles from 1796-1807). I have so far identified 28 such collections, only six of which included the 1804 13 stars. Those six are Gaskill, Fairfield, Gilhousen, Keston, Carter and one unnamed RARCOA offering. (Cataloguer's note: Of course, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection should also be added to this list of "significant collections" which contain the 1804 13 stars Quarter Eagle.) The 22 significant collections which did not have an 1804 13 stars include the National Numismatic Collection (Smithsonian), Bell, Eliasberg, Graves, Miles, Garrett, Norweb, Stack, Wolfson, Robison, Ten Eyck, and Taylor. The (13 stars) reverse die was also used for other coins - my view of the likely emission sequence (follows): 1) 1802 JR-4 dime, early die state; 2) 1802 JR-4 dime, rare late die state with significant obverse crack; 3) 1802 Breen-2 quarter eagle; 4) 1804 JR-1 dime, with reverse clashes reflecting dime obverse; 5) 1804 13 stars quarter eagle, with same (weaker) reverse clashes as on 1804 JR-1 dime." Price lists the following pedigree information for the specimens known to him. Additional comments by the cataloguer, David W. Akers.

- 1. Superior 5/91: 1308; Auction '90 (Superior): 1250; Stack's 3/90: 629; New Netherlands 48th sale (Judge T. Gaskill) 11/56: 184. Graded in the various sales from Choice Very Fine to Choice Almost Uncirculated.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Charles W. Neumoyer: 2352. Almost Uncirculated, prooflike. Described as, "A shade from Uncirculated", in the Neumoyer catalogue. "10" scratched in the obverse field. The 13 star reverse feature is not mentioned in the catalogue description.
- 3. New Netherlands 55th sale ("Cicero"): 259. Very Fine.
- 4. Gilhousen: 102. Very Fine.
- 5. Fairfield: 1440. Extremely Fine with pin scratches and a small dig as well as extensive obverse adjustment marks.
- 6. Auction '79 (Superior): 1659; Superior 2/78: 644. Very Fine, light scratches, well struck.
- 7. Superior 1/96 (Keston): 6; Auction '89 (Akers): 1359; Auction '85 (RARCOA): 349; Stack's 3/79: 1672. Extremely Fine, no problems.
- 8. Amon Carter, Jr.: 533. Extremely Fine, no problems, similar to preceding.
- 9. Harry W. Bass, Jr.

In addition to the above nine specimens, it is possible that a few more exist but, as Ed Price has pointed out, it is likely that the total number known does not exceed 12 specimens. Final note: The mintage figure of 1,003 pieces of this variety that has been suggested by Walter Breen seems much too high to me. Only 432 of the 1796 With Stars and 427 of the 1797 Quarter Eagle were minted as well as just 1,094 of the 1798 and 963 of the 1796 No Stars. All of these coins, rare as they are, do not compare in overall rarity to the 1804 13 Star Reverse and, although it is not possible to say for sure, I feel that it is much more likely that the mintage of this variety was no more than 250-300 pieces.



1716. 1807, Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck except for the usual weakness at the borders where many of the denticles are indistinct. The fields are partially prooflike and the coin has beautiful light to medium orange and coppery gold color. There are a few tiny rim bruises above RTY in LIBERTY and a few light hairlines and minor marks in the fields but, overall, this is a very attractive specimen for the grade. There are a few tiny rim bruises above RTY in LIBERTY. Only 6,812 examples of this issue were minted, but as low as this mintage figure is, it is far higher than for any other issue of the type. Not surprisingly then, the 1807 is the most common of the early Quarter Eagles from 1796-



1807. This coin was purchased privately from Ralph E. Elser on 11/5/49 for \$40. Elser was a county sheriff in Lima, Ohio, and had acquired the coin from Michael F. Higgy of Columbus, Ohio, in September 1942. Higgy was diagnosed with Bright's disease shortly thereafter and sold his entire collection to Numismatic Gallery of New York City who then offered it for sale at public auction in September 1943. It was this Higgy sale that catapulted Numismatic Gallery into the numismatic auction limelight, a position the company held for more than a decade until Abner Kreisberg and Abe Kosoff parted company and formed their own separate businesses.

VERY CHOICE PROOFLIKE UNCIRCULATED 1831 QUARTER EAGLE

Possible Proof — Sold As A Proof In The 1948 "Memorable" Sale Listed In Breen's Proof Encyclopedia





1717. 1831, Very Choice Uncirculated, but considered by some to be a Proof. Very sharply struck except for the slightest weakness where the eagle's left wing joins the shield and on the three vertical bars in the first (left) stripe. The stars are all very bold and have all of their radial lines. The fields are fully prooflike and this is one of those prooflike coins that really does look like a Proof, so much so that it was catalogued and sold as a Proof in Numismatic Gallery's "Memorable" sale of 1948 where JJP purchased it. It is also listed in Walter Breen's Proof Encyclopedia as specimen No. 4, but his other pedigree information under that particular listing is incorrect since this coin did not come from the William H. Woodin sale and it did not appear later in the Grant Pierce sale. (It has remained in the Pittman Collection since 1948.) This coin was purchased by JJP on 3/2/48 from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the "Memorable" Collection, Lot 91, for \$65. Earlier, the coin was in Stack's sale of the "J.F. Bell" (Jake Shapiro) Collection in 1944, Lot 97.

Among Quarter Eagles of this period, there are no more deceptive prooflike business strikes than those of 1831, and this has caused a number of specimens (including this one) to be sold as Proofs in the past, thereby deflating or minimizing the rarity of the few true Proofs in existence. In fact, the Jimmy Hayes-Grant Pierce specimen (which is undoubtedly the William H. Woodin coin and can also be traced

back to the 1890 Parmelee sale and the J. Colvin Randall sale of 1885) is the only true Proof of this date that I have ever seen on the market. (The Smithsonian also has an example of this date in Proof.) The Eliasberg coin, Lot 97, was catalogued in 1982 as a Proof and realized a Proof price, but it was exactly the same as the coin offered here and not, in my opinion, a true Proof. (Others, however, obviously must have considered it a Proof.) Complicating the situation, and making it even more difficult to tell these prooflike business strikes from true Proofs, is the fact that they were all struck from the same dies, easily identified by the dramatically recut U in UNITED and similarly recut I in AMERICA on the reverse. Clearly, the very few Proofs that were minted (probably fewer than 5 pieces, maybe only 2 or 3) were struck first and then the dies were used to mint the business strikes. Since so few of the latter were struck, nearly all of them have at least partially prooflike surfaces, and many have fully prooflike fields like this Pittman specimen. Interestingly, the reverse used to strike all of the 1831 Quarter Eagles, including the few Proofs, was first used to mint the business strikes of 1830 (and the unique Proof in the Smithsonian Institution), and this same reverse die was also used to mint all Quarter Eagles of this type through 1834, including the exceedingly rare Proofs of 1833 and 1834 With Motto. Final Note: When this coin was on display at several numismatic conventions, some very knowledgeable individuals who examined it felt that it is a Proof. I do not agree, but readily admit that it is a coin over which expert opinion might legitimately differ. Therefore, I suggest that interested bidders examine it closely and form their own opinions concerning this coin's method of manufacture.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1834 NO MOTTO QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only 8 Specimens Known





1718. 1834, Classic Head, No Motto. Very Proof. Small head, large arrowheads, the bottom one solidly touching the right foot of the last A in AMERICA. Fully brilliant with very attractive yellow gold color that has a light copper colored tint. Very sharply struck with deeply mirrorlike surfaces and all stars showing their full radial lines. Traces of die rust, now polished over, are present in the reverse field between the eagle and STATES OF, heaviest below ST. Doubling is evident on the bottoms of the letters A, E and S of STATES as well as O in OF; this is seen on most, but not all, Proofs of this issue. The eagle has a tongue and it is attached along its entire length to the lower part of the eagle's beak connecting at the left to the eagle's upper beak. There are a few light hairlines on the obverse and just a little cloudiness to the surfaces, but the overall appearance is excellent and this coin is very nearly in the same quality class as the Garrett and Auction '88 specimens. There is a trace of doubling at the bases of the numerals in the date, and there is a tiny unfinished area in the field in front of Liberty's nose. In addition to the aforementioned die rust on the reverse, there are also noticeable die rust pits below ITE of UNITED as well as between the D of the denomination and the arrowheads. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands Coin Co. 48th sale, 12/20/56, Lot 202, for \$180. In the catalogue, Walter Breen and John J. Ford, two of the foremost cataloguers and researchers of the Twentieth Century who, in my opinion, pioneered today's modern, informative style of cataloguing and set the standard by which all the rest of us should be judged, noted that this specimen was, "The only authentic example we have actually seen".

Because of the existence of a number of highly prooflike business strikes which have incorrectly been offered as Proofs in the past, the true rarity of this issue in Proof has not always been fully appreciated. True Proofs, like this specimen, are extremely rare and I can account for only 8 distinct specimens, although it is always possible that one or more additional examples exist. Following is a list of the known Proofs of the 1834 No Motto Quarter Eagle.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
 According to John McCloskey, who provided me with a great deal of information about the Classic Head Quarter Eagles as well as the C and D Mint Quarter Eagles in the Pittman Collection, this specimen is the Large Head variety. The other seven examples listed below are all the Small Head variety and so this Smithsonian example is possibly unique.
- 2. American Numismatic Society.
- 3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; New Netherlands 48th sale: 202; Judge Thomas Gaskill; Jerome Kern: 23; Col. E.H.R. Green; Waldo Newcomer; Clarence S. Bement: 227; William H. Woodin: 950; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1033.
- 4. Auction '84 (RARCOA): 1887; Joe Flynn; John Work Garrett: 754.
- 5. King of Siam Proof set.
- 6. Louis Eliasberg: 101; G.E. Wilharm: 71.
- 7. Auction '88 (David Akers): 857; Thomas G. Melish: 1121; H.R. Lee (Louis Eliasberg): 1006; "J.F. Bell" (Jake Shapiro): 101.
- 8. Abe Kosoff; John Jay Pittman; "Memorable": 95; "World's Greatest Collection": 101; F.C.C. Boyd; David S. Wilson: 177. Slightly impaired, rubbed in left obverse field. JJP sold this specimen after he was able to purchase the superior Gaskill example in 1956.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1835 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only Four Specimens Known





1719. 1835, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. Weakly struck on the hair curls around the face, especially those above the ear, and on the reverse at the left side of the shield and the eagle's left leg. Superb deep yellow gold color; full mirror fields with great proof luster. There are some very light hairlines in the fields, more on the reverse than on the obverse, but none is serious. There are also no nicks, marks or abrasions of significance. Overall, the eye appeal is outstanding and the coin is even prettier than the 1834 Proof in the preceding lot; it is not, however, as sharply struck as the 1834. This variety is rare as a business strike and extremely rare as a Proof. There is slight recutting on the short upright of the 5 in the date and the reverse die is easily distinguished by the fact that the right diagonal of the M in AMERICA is entirely missing. The arrowheads are small, much smaller than on the 1834, and do not touch the letters. The eagle has a tongue, but it is totally detached from the upper and lower beaks and is much shorter than the eagle's tongue on the 1834 due to die lapping; the berry on the branch is rounded, not split. There is a small narrow vertical planchet depression "as made" from the upper right serif of the F in OF. This is due to something adhering to the die at the time of striking and it was also present on the Eliasberg specimen. This coin was purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's "Memorable" sale, 3/2/48, Lot 96, for \$77.50.

Proofs of this date are extremely rare and, to the best of my knowledge, only the four specimens listed below are known. They were all struck from the reverse die described above which is not the die described in Breen's Encyclopedia. (The die he describes was used only for business strikes, some of which are sufficiently prooflike that they incorrectly have been described as Proofs in the past.) Following is the list of the only four specimens of which I am aware, although it is possible that one or more additional examples exist.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 96; "World's Greatest Collection": 102; F.C.C. Boyd; William H. Woodin: 954; John G. Mills: 549; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1046.
- 3. Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Louis Eliasberg: 102; George H. Earle: 2525.
- 4. Davis-Graves: 685; "J.F. Bell" (Jake Shapiro): 102.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1836 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only Five Specimens Known





1720. 1836, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Not quite as high quality as either of the two preceding Proofs, but still flashy and very attractive. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and they have some minor marks and hairlines, as well as an abrasion between the 6th star and the headband. The coin is softly struck on the hair curls around the face and the corresponding area on the reverse, namely the junction of the shield and the eagle's left wing. Evidence of considerable die lapping is noticeable, especially on the lower reverse where the end of the stem of the olive branch is detached, as is the berry on the branch; the berry is now separated into two small parts in the field. Also, the denticles below the denomination and extending out both left and right are small, weak and very widely separated with a mirror surface between individual denticles. The coin has a very attractive rich medium yellow gold color. John McCloskey, noted numismatic researcher and an expert on varieties of the Classic Head Quarter Eagles, had the following to say about this coin in a letter to me dated December 1, 1996. "The obverse of this coin does not match that of any other piece of this date that I have seen. The obverse is identified by the fancy 8 in the date, the 1st star being relatively close to the bust and the 6th star being far from the headband. The reverse is easily identified by the gap between AM in AMERICA. This may be a Proof-only variety as I have never seen this variety as a business strike." JJP purchased this coin from Numismatic Gallery's renowned "Memorable" sale, 3/2/48, Lot 97, for \$45.

To the best of my knowledge, only the following five Proof 1836 Quarter Eagles are known.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution. Head of 1835.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 97; "World's Greatest Collection": 103.
- 3. Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Louis Eliasberg: 103; John H. Clapp; William H. Woodin: 956; John G. Mills: 530; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1055. Head of 1837.
- 4. Brian Hendelson. Part of an original complete 1836 Proof set which included the two gold coins. Owned by the same family in the Philadelphia area since the year of issue. Head of 1835.
- New York dealer; Stack's 55th Anniversary sale: 1674;
 Abe Kosoff; Jerome Kern: 26; Col. E.H.R. Green. Head of 1835.

With respect to varieties, we have a most interesting and unusual situation here. Although there are only 5 Proofs known, they represent three different varieties! Numbers 1, 4 and 5 above are the same variety, but numbers 2 and 3 are different from them and different from each other.





- 1721. **1836**, **Head of 1835**. **Uncirculated**. Weakly struck on the hair curls around the face and the corresponding position on the wing and shield on the reverse; the stars, however, are very sharp. Lustrous surfaces with light yellow gold color highlighted with a trace of copper toning. There are die breaks on the obverse from the 6th star to the hair and at the lower right from the curl to the area between the 12th and 13th stars. The eagle has just a partial line for a tongue and there is no berry on the branch. The lowest arrowhead is firmly attached to the bottom right serif of the left foot of A and the middle arrowhead is close to, but does not quite touch, the left side of the C. According to John McCloskey, this is the most common variety of this date. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Thomas G. Melish sale, 4/21/56, Lot 1127, for \$16.
- 1722. **1837, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with medium yellow gold color and not much luster. Light to moderate marks and hairlines in the fields. The eagle has a tongue, there is a berry on the branch and the bottom arrow touches the right foot of A. According to John McCloskey, most examples of this date are of this variety. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/14/55, Lot 943, for \$12.25.





1723. 1838, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. Sharply struck with moderate luster and medium yellow gold color that has attractive copper highlights. The surfaces are fully frosty and have some light to moderate contact marks in the fields and on the devices. There is just a touch of friction on the high points, but I have certainly seen worse examples of this type called Uncirculated. The eagle has a tongue and there is a single split berry on the branch. The bottom arrowhead has a very sharp point and points to the space between the feet of A; the middle arrowhead just touches the left side of C. Some stars are recut, especially the 8th star directly above the head. There is only one variety of this date according to John McCloskey, and he identifies it by noting that the second 8 in the date is high and the 2 in the denomination on the reverse is centered under the feather tip. JJP purchased this coin as Uncirculated from Paul Seitz, 10/24/53, for \$16.50.





1724. 1838-C, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium greenish-gold with some copper highlights. Softly struck on the hair curls and the left side of the shield at the wing. Only a little mint luster remains and there are light to moderate bag marks and hairlines throughout the fields. The mintmark is double punched with the original C touching the top of the 3; the 1st star is recut. A tiny die break runs from the top left point of the shield to the eagle's beak; another runs from the denticles horizontally above the left wing. The bottom arrowhead is close to the right foot of A, but does not touch it; the middle arrowhead touches the bottom right side of the curve of C. This is the only known variety of this issue. Only 7,880 pieces were minted and it is doubtful if more than 75-100 can be accounted for today, most of them in the low grade seen here.





1725. **1839, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** This issue has been called an overdate, "1839/8", in the past. However, it is really not an overdate at all, but rather just a variety with a repunched date; the repunching is prominent at the 8 and 9. There is only one variety of 1839 according to John McCloskey; thus all 1839 Quarter Eagles have this repunched date. This coin has medium greenishgold color and fairly numerous light hairlines and contact marks. There is one vertical scratch on the reverse between STATES OF. There is also a small edge bruise below and to the right of the D in the denomination. The eagle has no tongue and there is a single detached berry on the olive branch. The bottom two arrowheads do not touch CA of AMERICA. Like the 1838, this 1839 was purchased from Paul Seitz, 10/24/53, for \$16.50 as an Uncirculated coin.

Buyer's Charge

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to all invoices. This buyer's charge is applicable to all successful bidders regardless of affiliation with any group or organization.





1726. **1839-C, Very Fine.** Cleaned, now with irregular copper and violet toning. Recut 39 in the date. The eagle has a tongue, there is no berry on the branch, and the bottom two arrowheads solidly touch CA of AMERICA. The top and bottom leaf pairs on the olive branch are detached from the branch. John McCloskey notes that this is a scarce variety of the issue, the obverse identified by the position of the C mintmark over the left side of the 3 in the date. The reverse is identified by the die crack through the E in STATES. The defect on the face of Miss Liberty is also a die characteristic of this variety. Purchased from the Thomas G. Melish sale (Numismatic Gallery, 4/21/56), Lot 1133, for \$22.50.





1727. 1839-D. Very Fine. Cleaned and dull with medium greenish-gold color. The 9 in the date touches the curl and is repunched. (As is the case with the 1839, the 1839-D is not an overdate. Furthermore, since only one obverse was used to strike the entire issue, along with two different reverses, all 1839-D Quarter Eagles have a repunched 9.) John McCloskey informs me that this is the more common of the two known varieties and is identified by being struck with the reverse die which has close letters TES in STATES and a weak olive stem. Also, it should be noted that the bottom two arrowheads touch CA of AMERICA, the eagle has no tongue and there is no berry on the branch. This specimen has moderate to heavy contact marks in the fields as well as a planchet imperfection at the first A of AMERICA. JJP purchased this from an Abner Kreisberg sale, 11/22/55, Lot 660, for \$18.





1728. **1839-O, Extremely Fine.** This specimen, according to John McCloskey, is the more common of the two known varieties of this issue. The obverse is identified by the high date that is far from the denticles. The reverse is identified by the wide fraction and the die crack through the I in

UNITED that extends through the leaves and the 2 in the denomination. Repunching is evident on the 3, but not on the other numerals of the date. The bottom two arrowheads are close to, but do not touch CA. The eagle has just a trace of a tongue and there is no berry on the branch. A large die break runs from the I in UNITED, through the leaf in the upper pair, past the talons, then down through the center of the 2 to the denticles.

JJP purchased this coin from A.H. Baldwin & Son on his way home from the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt, in March 1954. He paid the equivalent of \$13.32 for it.





1729. 1840, Choice Almost Uncirculated or Impaired Proof (per New Netherlands). Sharply struck with a broad rim and a partial wire edge. There is, however, the characteristic weakness on the eagle's left leg, and the 6th star is also weak as seen on most, but not all, 1840 Quarter Eagles. If indeed this coin was struck as a Proof (in my opinion, it was not) as claimed by Walter Breen in the catalogue for the New Netherlands 48th sale featuring the Judge Thomas Gaskill Collection, the original Proof surface is now totally missing due to the coin being cleaned. Actually, I doubt very much if Breen himself was entirely convinced that this coin was a Proof since in his catalogue description he indicated that it was, "Apparently struck as a Proof. Should be seen", and he graded it, "Ex. Fine, cleaned." In later years, he must have forgotten about his initial reservations, however, and he listed this coin, without qualification, as a Proof, albeit an impaired one, in both his Proof Encyclopedia and his Complete Encyclopedia. The coin has relatively little luster, but it does have reasonably attractive orange and yellow gold color. There is also some minor porosity to the surface. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 217, for only \$20, hardly a Proof or even an impaired Proof price.

In any condition, particularly in grades above Extremely Fine, the 1840 Quarter Eagle is a rare issue. Prior to the appearance in a 1997 Superior sale of six high grade specimens, including five mint state pieces, this date was impossible to find in Uncirculated condition and the Garrett specimen was widely considered to be the finest known with the Eliasberg specimen the only other decent one known to collectors. Due to the appearance of the six specimens in the Superior sale, however, perceptions of this issue's rarity have now changed, but this is still an issue that is very difficult to locate in the highest circulated grades. Final note: JJP sometimes displayed this Quarter Eagle with his other 1840 Proof coins and, in his own notes, he has this piece recorded as, "Proof, not perfect." Perhaps interested bidders may want to examine this piece very closely to see if they agree with Breen and JJP that it is an impaired Proof rather than accept my judgement that it is a business strike.

1730. **1840**, **Very Fine**. All the stars are flat and the edge is not at all like that on the preceding coin, so perhaps there is some validity to Breen's and JJP's opinion that the preceding lot was struck as a Proof, although I do not consider it one. This coin has medium greenish and orange gold color and has a dull obverse and a partially prooflike reverse. Both sides have heavy hairlines and friction. There are large rim nicks on the reverse at the left and a vertical die break through the fraction bar to the arrow feathers. Purchased from an Abner Kreisberg sale, 11/22/55, Lot 661, for \$7.





1731. **1840-C, Extremely Fine.** Weak on the hair curls around the face, but the eagle is quite sharp on the reverse. All of the stars except the 2nd have all or most of their radial lines. There is a high wire rim at the bottom of the reverse. The coin is quite attractive with light yellow and greenish-gold color that has a slight coppery tint. Numerous, but relatively minor, contact marks and hairlines are present in the fields, but there is also a moderate amount of luster remaining. Only 12,822 pieces were minted and it is unlikely if more than 100-150 pieces are known in all grades, most of them in condition similar to this one or even lower. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale, 4/21/56, Lot 1140, for \$23.





1732. **1840-D**, **Very Fine**. Quite well struck for the issue. Heavy abrasion on Liberty's face, but the fields are quite clean with only scattered light hairlines and marks. Attractive greenish-yellow gold color with a slight coppery tint. Large die breaks are seen on both the obverse and reverse indicating that both dies had literally shattered when this piece was struck, this factor no doubt accounting for the very low mintage of only 3,532 pieces. The condition of the dies used to strike this piece was so poor that they certainly could not have lasted much longer after this coin was minted. This is one of the rarest of all Dahlonega Mint gold coins and it is a highly desirable item regardless of grade. Purchased by JJP in 1956 from the Melish Collection sale, Lot 1141, for \$45.

RARE HIGH GRADE 1840-O QUARTER EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Specimens





1733. 1840-O, Large O. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. Very weakly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle, particularly the left leg and left side of the shield. The surfaces are very lustrous and semi-prooflike with beautiful medium coppery gold color. Die file marks are present at the denticles between the 1 and the first star; they are also seen on the reverse above ST and to a lesser extent above ATE of STATES. There are some minor marks and hairlines in the fields, but the coin's overall appearance is excellent and it is very nearly in mint state condition. This is a first-rate example of this very rare and underrated issue, an issue which is normally available only in VF condition. Even in Extremely Fine, the 1840-O is quite rare and just a few other examples are known that grade as high as this piece; if this coin is not in the Condition Census, then it is just outside it. Purchased by JJP from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1143, for \$21.

EXTREMELY RARE MINT STATE 1841-C QUARTER EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Example





1734. **1841-C**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with a high wire rim around much of the obverse and reverse. There is a slight weakness in the hair curls below LI in LIBERTY and on the eagle's right talons, but this coin is distinctly superior to most specimens seen in terms of both strike and overall quality. The surfaces are completely original with beautiful medium coppery gold color, and there are just a few light marks and hairlines in the fields on both sides. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale, 4/21/56, Lot 1144, for \$52.50.

Only 10,281 pieces of this issue were minted. Obviously, they were intended for immediate circulation and were, in fact, used for that purpose since most known specimens are well circulated, the typical example grading only Very Fine or Extremely Fine at best. A few decent AU examples are known, as well as perhaps two or three others that could legitimately be called Uncirculated, but of the three examples of this issue previously considered to be at the top of the Condition Census, namely the one I purchased and sold for Paramount in 1974, the Bareford example and the Fairfield (Arthur H. Lamborn) specimen, none was as nice as this piece. Along with the 1841-D, 1843-C Small Date, and the 1846-O that follow, this is one of the four rarest and most important business strike Liberty Head Quarter Eagles in the Pittman Collection, and it will certainly be viewed with admiration by collectors specializing in the coins of this popular southern Mint.

Pedigrees

John Jay Pittman purchased coins from an amazingly wide variety of sources, from professional dealers, public and mail bid auctions, and numerous individual collectors. The cataloguer (David W. Akers) has attempted to present in this catalogue as accurate an historical record as possible of JJP's purchases. JJP's notes, coin envelopes, ledgers, invoices, exhibition cards and personally annotated auction catalogues have been thoroughly researched in order to correctly pedigree his coins. However, the reader should be aware that, where pedigrees are concerned, inaccuracies are always possible, no matter how careful and thorough the research. Nevertheless, the pedigrees listed herein are believed to be correct as stated.

EXTREMELY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1841-D QUARTER EAGLE





1735. 1841-D, Uncirculated. Very sharply struck for the issue with just a slight trace of weakness on the eagle's left leg. There is a noticeable abrasion on the 1 of the fraction in the denomination, but the semi-prooflike fields are quite clean with a minimal number of marks, abrasions and lines. The coin has excellent rich coppery gold color and a great deal of its original mint luster. There is one tiny rim nick on the reverse near the tip of the eagle's right wing. Die file marks are present at the denticles under the date and along the rim up to the 11th star. A fine hairline die break runs diagonally through Liberty's hair and forehead. Purchased from the Milton Holmes sale conducted by Stack's in October 1960 as Lot 3192 for \$270. This specimen was purchased by JJP to significantly upgrade a low quality specimen he had purchased in January of 1959 from Bill Ulrich. Note: Upgrading was not a typical practice for JJP, but the opportunity to purchase an 1841-D Quarter Eagle of this quality simply could not be missed.

A mere 4,164 pieces of the 1841-D Quarter Eagle were minted and, although it is not as rare as the 1840-D and 1842-D, it is considerably more rare than any of the other D Mint Quarter Eagles in the 1840's. The 1841-D is also not quite as rare as the D Mint issues from 1852-1856, but it surpasses in rarity the other D Mint issues of the 1850's. This piece is solidly in the Condition Census for the issue and is perhaps the third finest known, the finest being the example sold in my session of Auction '88 as Lot 859. In a letter to me, John McCloskey, who has done extensive research on D Mint Quarter Eagle varieties, had the following comment. "This is a very rare variety with a very low D mintmark that nearly touches the fraction bar. The only time that I have ever seen this variety is from the picture in your book on Quarter Eagle auction records. (Note: The coin pictured in my book was the Lilly specimen in the Smithsonian Institution.) Most examples of this date have the mintmark high and left, up close to the eagle's talons." Doug Winter, in his book on Dahlonega Mint gold coins, makes a similar comment and states, "An example of this variety was first identified in the Pittman Collection. It appears to be very rare.'





1736. **1842**, **Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck except for slight weakness on the eagle's left leg. Very attractive for an Extremely Fine coin with only light to moderate marks and hairlines in the fields; attractive medium orange gold color. This is a very low mintage and underrated issue; a mere 2,823 examples were struck and it is all but unobtainable above the grade of Extremely Fine. The 1842 Quarter Eagle is more rare than most of the popular C and D Mint issues,

including some of the rarest ones, and it is also more rare, all grades considered, than the ultra-low mintage 1875. In fact, among all Liberty Head Quarter Eagle issues, only the famous 1841 and 1854-S are indisputably more rare than the 1842. Walter Breen notes as much in his Encyclopedia when he states, "Long believed of extreme rarity, but after WWI several low grade survivors turned up; still prohibitively rare AU, unknown UNC."

VERY RARE 1842-C QUARTER EAGLE



1737. **1842-C, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** An outstanding example of this issue, in fact, a "gem" for the grade. It is a little softly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's legs, and all the stars are flat, but this coin is actually superior with respect to strike to most examples of this issue that I have seen. The surfaces are semi-prooflike and have rich golden color. There are a few light contact marks and hairlines in the fields, the heaviest just above the date. There are also just a couple of tiny edge nicks on the rim above UNIT-ED. A small die break runs from the tip of the left wing to the rim. Slight doubling is evident on the square bases of the 2's in the denomination. This is a very rare issue,



one of the rarest of all the Charlotte Mint Quarter Eagles, surpassed, and then just slightly, only by the 1843-C Small Date and 1855-C. Amazingly, one Gem Uncirculated example of this issue is known, a coin from the Stanley Elrod Collection that I sold back in the late 1980's, but I am not aware of any other mint state examples. This specimen is, therefore, one of the finest examples one could hope to obtain; in fact, I believe it to be in the Condition Census, i.e. one of the top five or six examples known. This is another C Mint Quarter Eagle that will excite the many collectors who specialize in Charlotte Mint gold coins. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1146, for \$52.50.

VERY RARE 1842-D QUARTER EAGLE





1738. 1842-D, Extremely Fine. More wear visible than on the 1842-C in the preceding lot, but this is also a problem-free coin that is very attractive for the grade. It is well struck with light coppery gold color and some luster still remaining in and around the letters and devices. There are some relatively light handling marks and hairlines in the fields, but none of them is worth special mention. Repunching is visible at the lower left curve of the 8 in the date. This issue is the second rarest of the three D Mint Quarter Eagle rarities from 1840-1842; it is more rare than the 1841-D but slightly less rare than the 1840-D. Mint state coins are unknown and only a few grade as high as Almost Uncirculated; even in this grade, the 1842-D is a rarity. Acquired at the Melish sale, Lot 1147, for \$37.50.





1739. **1842-O, Extremely Fine.** A classic example of the grade. Sharply struck with some luster remaining in and around the devices. There are a few light contact marks and hairlines in the fields, none of which is particularly severe. The color is a very attractive medium greenish-gold with copper highlights. This coin was struck from a very late state of the dies with the die break at the bases of AMERIC in the legend very pronounced and also a large die break (cud) on the reverse rim at K-5. This issue is a very scarce and underrated one. It is not often seen in any grade and, when available, it is almost always only in Very Fine or lower condition. Above the grade level represented by this specimen, the 1842-O is a rarity. JJP purchased this coin from his good friend, Abe Kosoff, 6/28/57, for \$17.50.

1740. **1843, Very Fine.** Sharply struck except for the usual weakness on the eagle's left leg. Light yellow gold color; moderate hairlines and contact marks in the fields. Purchased from J. MacMillan in 1958, price unknown.

HIGH GRADE 1843-C SMALL DATE QUARTER EAGLE





1741. **1843-C, Small Date, Crosslet 4. Almost Uncirculated.** This is a very attractive and high grade example of this rare issue. It is well struck with excellent detail on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's feathers and legs. The fields are partially prooflike and the entire coin is very lustrous and has beautiful medium coppery gold color. The characteristic die break runs from the tip of the bust to the rim. There is considerable friction as well as light to moderate contact marks and hairlines in the fields, but there is little evidence of actual wear, just the barest trace of rubbing on the highest points of the design. JJP obtained this coin from Ed Bell on 3/14/62 in trade for an 1802/1 Half Eagle, an 1805 Half Eagle, and

\$200 in cash. JJP valued the two Half Eagles at \$200 each so he considered his cost for this coin to be \$600.

This is the rarest and most famous Quarter Eagle from the Charlotte Mint. It is thought to have constituted less than one eighth of the total mintage of Quarter Eagles in 1843 at the Charlotte Mint; only an estimated 2,988 pieces of this Small Date variety were struck compared to 23,076 of the 1843-C Large Date. Most known specimens are fairly low grade with VF or EF examples being typical. In Almost Uncirculated condition, the 1843-C Small Date Quarter Eagle is a rarity and no more than 3 or 4 specimens are known that could legitimately be called mint state. The total number of specimens known is probably on the order of 50-60 pieces, making this a solid Rarity-5 issue, and it is quite likely that this Pittman specimen is in the Condition Census for 1843-C Small Date Quarter Eagles.





1742. **1843-C**, Large Date, Plain 4. Very Fine. Rather dull surfaces and light coppery gold color. Numerous light to moderate hairlines and marks in the fields as well as considerable friction. The C mintmark is prominently double punched and, in fact, appears to be a large C punched over a small C. All the numerals in the date are repunched, especially noticeable at the bottoms of the 8 and 3. All grades considered, this variety is not nearly as rare as the Small Date variety; however, in the highest circulated grades and especially mint state, the two issues are really quite comparable. Purchased 11/13/55 from W. Pollard for \$10.





1743. **1843-D, Extremely Fine.** Small D mintmark as used on the issues from 1840-1842. This is one of the two commonly encountered varieties of this year with a low D mintmark that nearly touches the fraction bar. The surfaces are lustrous and semi-prooflike and the coin has attractive light to medium yellow gold color and a very sharp strike except for the usual weakness on the eagle's left leg. There are quite a few marks and scratches in the fields. This issue is the most common issue among Quarter Eagles from this popular southern Mint. Acquired by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's 1954 CSNS sale, Lot 655, for \$14.





- 1744. 1843-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Large D mintmark as used on the D Mint Quarter Eagles from 1844-1859. Softly struck on the hair above Liberty's ear, but very sharp elsewhere, particularly on the reverse. Attractive light greenish-gold color; light to moderate contact marks throughout the fields. This issue is far more rare than the small mintmark variety and it really is deserving of a separate listing in the various pricing guides. It is believed that only 3,537 of this Large D variety were minted, little more than 10% of the mintage of the 1843 Small D variety. It is not at all surprising, therefore, that this Large D variety is far more rare than the 1843-D Small D variety and is actually comparable to the 1840-1842 issues as well as some of the rare D Mint Quarter Eagles of the mid-1850's. Purchased by JJP from the George Walton sale (Stack's 10/63), Lot 2125, for \$360.
- 1745. **1843-O**, **Small Date**, **Crosslet 4. Almost Uncirculated**. Sharply struck on the obverse, a little weak on the eagle and shield on the reverse. Attractive medium orange gold color. Not much, if any, real wear, but hairlined on both sides from being wiped or brushed. Obtained from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 232, for \$18.





1746. 1843-O, Large Date, Plain 4. Extremely Fine. Sharply struck for the issue with just a trace of weakness on the hair curls at Liberty's forehead and on the eagle's left wing. The borders are very broad and flat. The color is an attractive medium coppery gold and the surfaces have very good luster. There are some very light hairlines and trivial marks in the fields as well as two small carbon spots in the right reverse field under the eagle's wing. The mintmark is boldly double punched with the original mintmark showing clearly at the base of the properly placed mintmark. The bottom left serif of the 1 in the date solidly touches the right side of a denticle. This variety is much more rare than the Small Date variety, probably at least 4 or 5 times as rare, and I consider it to be a decidedly underrated issue in grades of Extremely Fine or better. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 233, for \$29.





1747. **1844-C**, **Very Fine**. Weakly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face and on much of the eagle's feathers and shield. Many light hairlines and marks as well as considerable friction in the fields. Light greenish-gold color. There are several prominent rim nicks at the bottom of the reverse. This is a very scarce issue, especially in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas Melish sale, 4/56, Lot 1161, for \$28.50.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1844-D QUARTER EAGLE



1748. **1844-D**, **Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with outstanding luster and superb coppery gold color. There is just a trace of carbon on the reverse in the denticles and the eagle's wing feathers. Some prooflike surface is evident around the head of Liberty and the eagle. Clash marks are very prominent around the eagle, especially noticeable above the right wing. This specimen is the most common of the two varieties for the year; it was struck with the same reverse die used to mint the 1843-D Large D. Purchased by JJP from the Melish sale, 4/56, Lot 1164, for \$21.

In terms of overall rarity, the 1844-D is relatively common by D Mint Quarter Eagle standards. The 1843-D is easily the most common issue with a group of three issues, including the 1844-D, 1846-D and 1847-D, the next most common issues. Of these four issues, the 1844-D is probably the most often available in full mint state, although none of the known Uncirculated specimens would be graded Choice Uncirculated by today's strict grading standards. This Pittman specimen offered here, if not in the Condition Census, is certainly just outside of it and it is likely one of the top 10-12 1844-D Quarter Eagles known from a technical grade standpoint. However, factoring eye appeal into the equation, this 1844-D fares even better, and it is undoubtedly one of the most pleasing specimens known due to its unusually sharp strike and great color and luster.

1749. **1845**, **Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Well struck; light orange gold color. Several prominent die breaks on the lower reverse. Large edge scrape above T in UNITED. Purchased from an unknown French's sale, Lot 713.





- 1750. **1845-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Fairly well struck with just a trace of weakness on the hair and eagle. Light to medium coppery gold color. There are several noticeable edge nicks and abrasions as well as a small planchet defect on the point of the bust directly above the 1 in the date. There is also a large rim defect, possibly "as made", on the obverse rim between the 1st and 2nd stars; another smaller, shallower one is present by the 13th star. There are numerous light hairlines and handling marks throughout the fields. The Large D mintmark touches the top right side of the 1 in the fraction and the arrow feather, and just barely misses the fraction bar. Under the Large D, there appear to be the remnants of an original Small D that was first punched into the die then effaced. JJP purchased this coin from a French's auction, 5/14/55, Lot 946, for \$12.
- 1751. **1845-O, Very Fine.** Harshly cleaned, now heavily hairlined on both sides. 18 in the date is repunched, especially noticeable on the 1. The large mintmark touches the arrow feather and the point of the diagonal fraction bar. There is a depression in the field (like a huge lint mark) behind the neck at the lowest curls. With only 4,000 pieces struck, this is one of the rarest O Mint Quarter Eagles. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1167, for \$47.50.





- 1752. **1846-C, Extremely Fine.** Weakly struck from heavily rusted dies. Attractive medium coppery gold color; some prooflike surface still remains. There are prominent marks on the rim just to the right of the date. The luster is at least average for the issue and the fields and devices have light to moderate hairlines and handling marks, but nothing really serious other than the aforementioned marks on the rim. Only 4,808 pieces of this issue were minted and it is one of the rarest of all Liberty Head Quarter Eagles. Most known specimens grade only Very Fine or less. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1170, for \$35.
- 1753. **1846-D, Fine to Very Fine.** Harshly cleaned and heavily hairlined. Normal D mintmark; noticeable double punching on the date. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's CSNS sale in 1954, Lot 659, for \$13.

Normally, a low quality, cleaned example of a relatively common issue would not require additional commentary, but John McCloskey, who reviewed the Dahlonega Mint Quarter Eagles in the Pittman Collection, had the following to say about this coin. "I am amazed by this piece. I own examples of three other varieties from three different reverses and this piece doesn't match any of them. On the obverse, the 6 in the date is centered in the field between the neck and the denticles. All three other varieties have a low date with the 6 closer to the denticles. This variety would have to be very rare."

Pittman, Part Three

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Three, will be held in early 1999. This third sale will consist entirely of World Coins and Paper Money.

JJP collected coins from most countries of the world, past and present. However, among his World Coins, of particular significance are his coins of Canada, Great Britain, Japan, Cuba, Mexico, Russia, South Africa and Australia. The Pittman Collection also contains many notable rarities from Central and South American countries as well as most European and Asian countries.

Featured in this sale will be a complete, original 1936 Specimen set of Canada including the three "Dot" coins. Another highlight item will be an 1880 Japanese presentation Proof set including the gold coins. Also featured in the sale will be an 1862 British Columbia \$20 in gold; a Proof 1916 Cuba 20 Pesos; a 1662 Charles II Crown in gold from England; Spanish 50 Reales (Cinquentinas) of 1628 and 1636; an Adelaide ingot from Australia; 1855 pattern gold coins from Peru; 1894 pattern gold coins from Guatemala; 1875 pattern gold coins from Venezuela; and much, much more. This sale will be one of the most important sales of World Coins of this era and we invite your participation.

EXTRAORDINARY BORDERLINE GEM 1846-O QUARTER EAGLE

The Finest Known Specimen





1754. 1846-O, Very Choice Uncirculated, virtually in the Gem class. This is one of the most impressive coins in the John Jay Pittman Collection and it is certainly the most important of all of his business strike Quarter Eagles. It is a little weakly struck on the hair curls by Liberty's forehead and temple, and it is very weakly struck on the eagle's left leg and right talons. However, the rest of the coin, including the eagle's wing and neck feathers, and all of the stars on the obverse, is very sharp. The denticles are weak in places and have substantial die rust. There is a broad border with a partial wire rim on the obverse. The description so far does not make it sound as though this coin is anything special, but it takes no more than a quick glance to realize that this 1846-O Quarter Eagle is unlike any other specimen known. It is by far the finest 1846-O in existence and, it may well be the finest O Mint Quarter Eagle known of any date. The color and luster are extraordinary, the color a lovely light to medium yellow gold with an attractive copper tint. The surfaces are partially prooflike, particularly around the head of Liberty and near the eagle. There are a few faint hairlines and contact marks, the most noticeable in the field just above the eagle's head, but in many ways this coin has the look of a Gem and, in fact, it was as a "Gem Unc." that JJP purchased it from a James Kelly sale, 4/27/57, Lot 731, for \$37.50.

The 1846-O Quarter Eagle is only a moderately low mintage issue since 62,000 pieces were struck. However, the mintage certainly must have gone into immediate circulation since nearly all known specimens are only Very Fine or Extremely Fine at best. Even in AU condition, the 1846-O is rare and mint state pieces are of extreme rarity with no more than 6-8 such pieces known, all of which, with the sole exception of this piece, are of minimal Uncirculated quality. This piece is not just the finest known 1846-O Quarter Eagle, it is the finest known by a substantial margin and, when such important factors as luster, color and eye appeal are considered as well as the technical grade, the difference between this piece and every other 1846-O Quarter Eagle grows even greater. Over the last two years, while displaying various Pittman coins at selected coin shows, we put this 1846-O Quarter Eagle on display on several occasions. It was invariably one of the most admired and discussed coins on display, and the typical reaction to it was similar to the reaction that I had when I first viewed it, namely, one of amazement that such an incredible quality example of this issue could still exist.

UNDERRATED 1847 QUARTER EAGLE





1755. 1847, Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck except for a trace of weakness on the eagle's leg and the left edge of the shield. Attractive light coppery gold color. There is a trace of carbon in the eagle's right wing feathers, but the surfaces of the coin have relatively few and minor marks and hairlines. The date is huge (as it is on all 1847 Quarter Eagle issues) and fills the entire space between the border and the bust. This piece is the variety with the normal date, i.e. there is no repunching on the 18. The 1847 Quarter Eagle is both rare and underrated, especially in high grade. In fact, it is more rare than many of the C and D Mint issues of the 1840's, yet it has never really received any notoriety as a rarity. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery in 1949 for \$16.





1757. 1847-D, Extremely Fine. Generally well struck despite a slight weakness on the hair curls near the forehead and on the eagle's left leg and right talons. The fields are semiprooflike and the coin has excellent luster and beautiful coppery gold color. Light handling marks and hairlines consistent with the grade are present in the fields and on the devices, and there are a number of small rim nicks on both sides, the most noticeable ones on the obverse. There is also a small gouge near the denticles between the 10th and 11th stars. This is one of the three or four most common D Mint Quarter Eagles; however, most available specimens are only Very Fine or Extremely Fine, and AU examples are very scarce, if not rare. As is the case with all Quarter Eagles from this Mint, strictly Uncirculated examples are very rare. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1177, for \$22.

HIGH GRADE 1847-C QUARTER EAGLE





1758. **1847-O, Very Fine.** Weakly struck, especially on the reverse. The O mintmark touches the 1 and the fraction bar as well as the bottom arrow feather. Medium copper gold color. Numerous light handling marks and hairlines, but none is really serious. Purchased by JJP from the William Donlon sale conducted by Abe Kosoff, 11/24/56, Lot 1189D, for \$11.

1756. **1847-C, Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck on the obverse but weak on portions of the eagle (legs, talons, and lower right wing feathers). The lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces have light hairlines and a few marks. There is a small rim bruise at K-1 on the obverse. Considerable die rust is evident on the reverse, especially under the left wing, below the first T in STATES, and below N of UNIT-ED and C of AMERICA. This is the most common Charlotte Mint Quarter Eagle, but high grade circulated specimens are very scarce and mint state examples are quite rare. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery in 1949 for \$13.50.

According to John McCloskey, "The same reverse die was used to strike this issue as was used to mint the 1846-C and 1848-C. The reverse die is badly rusted in the striking of the 1846-C coins, but most of the rust marks are polished off during the striking of the 1847-C coins. 1848-C coins only show a few rust marks on this reverse, but a die crack develops from the wing to the M in AMERICA. The C mintmark is located far to the right and it is joined to the branch stem."

Delivery of Lots

All Lots must be paid for in full prior to delivery. No Exceptions. Delivery to successful, qualified bidders will be made according to the following schedule.

Session One: Thursday, May 21, 1998 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

Sessions One & Two: Friday, May 22, 1998 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

Any lots picked up in Baltimore will be subject to all applicable state and local taxes. Lots not picked up in Baltimore will be mailed to successful bidders.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1848 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only Three Specimens Known





1759. 1848, Proof. Very sharply struck on the obverse, but weakly struck on the eagle's left leg and on the left and right talons. (This is characteristic of the other known Proofs of this date and also most Proof Quarter Eagles of the 1840's.) The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have quite a few light hairlines and minor abrasions. They are more evident on the obverse, particularly in the left field, than on the reverse. The edge is sharp and square and has a partial wire rim. On the neck, just below the jaw line, is a raised die lump that is characteristic of the Proof Quarter Eagles of 1848; in fact, this is a Proof-only variety and no business strikes are known from these dies. The 1 in the date solidly touches the bust, the other numerals are well away with the final 8 centered between the truncation and the denticles. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Thomas G. Melish sale, 4/21/56, Lot 1181, for \$225.

In the Melish catalogue, Abe Kosoff made the comment, "This date occasionally appears in Proof condition." He had made exactly the same comment in his description of the Proof that appeared in "World's Greatest Collection" as Lot 115 (a different specimen). JJP and I found this comment to be interesting and somewhat amusing because, to the best of our knowledge, the "World's Greatest Collection" coin and the Melish specimen were the only two specimens known outside of the Smithsonian Institution. One evening, when we were having dinner with Abe Kosoff, JJP jokingly made a reference to Kosoff's cataloguing of the two Proof 1848 Quarter

Eagles and asked Kosoff to explain his comment that the 1848 Quarter Eagle, "Occasionally appears in Proof condition." Kosoff remarked that he thought that he had seen or heard of a few others offered at auction in the past, but he could not really remember exactly when or where. After a brief discussion, he conceded that the "World's Greatest Collection" and Melish coins were the only two that he had ever personally seen in his long and illustrious career. Of course, there is always the possibility that another specimen or two exist but, at the present time, only the following three specimens are known with certainty.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Thomas G. Melish: 1181; George H. Earle: 2541.
- 3. Superior 2/91: 2669; Ed Trompeter; Dr. Elias Rand; Davies-Niewoehner: 495; Fred Davies; Paramount International Coin Corp.; Stanley Kesselman; Texas collector; "World's Greatest Collection": 115; F.C.C. Boyd; William H. Woodin: 973.

The reference to the Davis-Graves "Proof" that Breen makes in his Encyclopedia is incorrect since the Davis-Graves sale contained only an AU 1848 and a prooflike 1848 CAL; perhaps Breen was thinking of this latter specimen which was described as having a proof surface. He also mentions that he was aware of a fourth example that was "impaired", but he is undoubtedly referring to the Earle specimen (described as "slightly abraded") which is the same as the Pittman coin offered here, a pedigree connection with which Breen was apparently unfamiliar.





1760. **1848-C, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Bluntly struck on the hair curls at the forehead and on the lower portions of the eagle and the arrow feathers. Lustrous surfaces with some prooflike fields still evident under the light to moderate hairlines and abrasions. The color is a light greenish-gold. A tiny hairline die break runs from the tip of each wing to the rim. Purchased from the George Walton sale, 6/20/63, Lot 55, for \$82.50.





1761. **1848-D, Very Fine.** Well struck with broad borders, medium orange gold color, and some luster remaining on the semi-prooflike surfaces. There is one prominent mark on the face as well as some noticeable nicks and abrasions on the rims. Purchased 11/12/55 at the Penn-Ohio show from C.C. "Tim" Shroyer for \$10.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1849 QUARTER EAGLE





1762. 1849, Uncirculated. Sharply struck and very lustrous with beautiful medium coppery gold color; every star is sharp. There is a prominent abrasion on the obverse edge between the 8th and 9th stars and another on the rim below and just to the right of the 9 in the date. There is a nick below Liberty's ear lobe and a lint mark at the stop between the U of UNITED and the 2 in the denomination. The reverse is lightly striated and would easily grade Choice Uncirculated if it were not for a gouge in the shield. Dense die scratches or file marks are present at the denticles below the date. This is a scarce, low mintage date with only 23,294 pieces struck. Most examples grade from VF to EF and mint state specimens are decidedly rare. JJP purchased this from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Adolphe Menjou Collection, 6/15/50, Lot 1198, for \$21 where it was described as, "Uncirculated, really a choice coin."





1763. **1849-C,** Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with just a trace of weakness on the hair curls at the top of the forehead and on the eagle's left leg and right talons. The edge is square and both sides have a partial wire edge. The fields are rather prooflike and the coin has excellent luster and beautiful coppery gold color. There is a tiny hairline from the top of the hair bun to the 11th star and a mark at the upper corner of Liberty's mouth, but the coin is otherwise quite clean with only a few minor hairlines and marks. The fields are heavily striated on the reverse, especially in the legends, denomination and near the eagle. There is a planchet imperfection above the M in AMERICA. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Melish Collection sale, 4/56, Lot 1189, for \$32.50.

The 1849-C is one of the rarest of the Charlotte Mint Quarter Eagles. Only 10,220 pieces were struck and probably fewer than 100 specimens are known today in any condition, most of them in grades well below the AU level of this particular specimen. I am not aware of any specimen that grades mint state by the strictest grading standards and so it is quite likely that this coin is in the Condition Census for the issue. According to John McCloskey, "Another reverse was used for three years to strike 1849-C, 1850-C and 1851-C Quarter Eagles. This C mintmark is located for the left over the 1 in the fraction. This reverse becomes badly clashed during the striking of 1850-C coins and the clash marks are still visible on 1851-C coins."





1764. **1849-D,** Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with excellent luster, partially prooflike surfaces, and beautiful medium coppery gold color. There are no serious marks or defects on this coin, just a few light handling marks and faint hairlines, mostly confined to the fields. The denticles on the left side of the reverse are mostly missing, but the obverse denticles are well defined. This is a very scarce coin in this grade; in fact, it is all but impossible to find one appreciably finer. JJP purchased this coin on 11/13/55 from W. Pollard for \$15.

According to John McCloskey, who has done a great deal of research on Dahlonega Mint Quarter Eagles, "There are a lot of reverse die varieties for the first ten years of the series. There are no varieties for the last ten years of the series. All Dahlonega quarter eagles from the 1849-1859-D were struck from the same reverse die. This can be verified by a series of die scratches running through the reverse shield. And then there is the die crack that connects the base of the OF for all the rare dates from the 1854-D to the 1859-D. These characteristics authenticate all the Dahlonega quarter eagles during the last ten years of the series. Many of the Dahlonega quarter eagles have weaknesses in the denticles from the

1849-D through to the 1859-D. But this weakness in the denticles was not caused by any permanent damage to the coinage dies. I can only assume that the dies were clogged by some substance that was cleaned out for further use of the dies. The last reverse die was used for many years and in some years shows strong denticles after very weak denticles from the year before."





1765. **1850, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. The reverse is strictly Uncirculated, albeit a little weakly struck on the eagle's left leg. However, the obverse does have a slight trace of friction on the highest points which, for me, removes this coin from the mint state class, although others may feel differently. The surfaces are lustrous with brilliant light yellow gold color and some copper highlights. There are minor hairlines and handling marks in the fields. This is a scarce issue in the highest circulated grades and a very scarce, if not rare one, in mint state. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1191 for \$18.50.





1766. **1850-C, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Considerable luster and partially prooflike fields, rich yellow and coppery gold color. The surfaces have quite a few light hairlines and handling marks, as one would expect from the grade, and there are also several sharp edge nicks and bruises. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1193 for \$26.





1767. 1850-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Softly struck on the hair curls by the forehead and on the lower portions of the eagle. Some luster remains on the beautiful medium orange and greenish-gold surfaces. There are a few small edge nicks as well as some light hairlines and handling marks. The denticles on the reverse are very weak, but they are substantially more well defined on the obverse. Like all Dahlonega Quarter Eagles, this issue is scarce in any condition and rare in the highest circulated grades; at the mint state level, the 1850-D is virtually unknown. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1194 for \$27.50.

1768. **1850-O, Fine to Very Fine.** Dull and hairlined, light to medium coppery-gold color. Deep gouge in the obverse field at the 6th star. Purchased from the Melish Collection sale, Lot 1196, for \$12.

1769. **1851, Extremely Fine.** Frosty and sharply struck, blotchy light orange gold color. Very weak at the left wing tip.





1770. 1851-C, Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck on both sides with just the slightest weakness on the hair curls around the face and on the right side of the eagle. Partially prooflike fields and very attractive light to medium greenish-gold and copper color. Heavy adjustment marks on both sides running diagonally across the face, hair and coronet of Liberty as well as vertically the entire length of the eagle. There are numerous light handling marks and hairlines in the fields, especially on the obverse. The description makes the coin sound very unattractive, but that is really not the case, although the adjustment marks are definitely detracting. From a technical grade standpoint, this is one of the finest examples in existence since most of the 75-100 known specimens grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 265, for \$34.





1771. **1851-D, Extremely Fine.** Generally well struck except on the legs and right talons of the eagle. Moderately lustrous, light orange gold color. There is one long hairline in the obverse field running between stars 2 and 3 across the face and neck into the right field. Numerous raised die scratches are present on the obverse, especially around the date. Very weak at the denticles around much of the reverse. This issue is very scarce in any condition and very rare in any grade significantly better than the EF condition of this piece. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's 1956 Melish sale, Lot 1201, for \$23.

1772. **1851-O, Fine to Very Fine.** Boldly double punched 51 of the date; barely noticeable double punching on the 8 and first 1. Pale coppery-gold color, lightly burnished. Purchased from the William Donlon Collection sale (Kosoff, 11/24/56), Lot 1193, for \$13.

1773. **1852, Extremely Fine.** Pale coppery-gold color, a trace of mint luster. Light to moderate handling marks. Purchased for \$3, date of purchase and seller unknown.





1774. **1852-C, Extremely Fine.** Weak on the hair curls above the forehead and on portions of the eagle; sharp stars. Lustrous and partially prooflike with attractive medium coppery-gold color. There is a small scratch behind the head and some nicks in the high wire rim on the obverse, including several below and to the right of the 2 in the date. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 269, for \$40.

According to researcher John McCloskey, "The same reverse was used to strike 1852-C, 1854-C and 1855-C Quarter Eagles. The C mintmark nearly touches both the 1 and the fraction bar and a tip of the feather extends through the arc of the mintmark. Only one variety for each year." The 1852-C is a very scarce issue in any condition, very nearly in the same rarity class as the much lower mintage, higher valued 1852-D. Most known examples grade only VF or EF and, above the grade level offered here, the 1852-C is very rare. A handful of coins exist with some claim to being Uncirculated, but none is better than minimal mint state.

RARE 1852-D QUARTER EAGLE





1775. 1852-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold color. Weak on the hair curls around the face and on portions of the eagle. Abrasion on the N of UNITED, another below the eagle's left wing. Numerous other light handling marks and hairlines. This issue is very scarce, if not rare, in all grades, although not appreciably more so than the 1852-C; in fact, if anything, the 1852-C is actually more difficult to find above Extremely Fine than the 1852-D. However, all the Dahlonega Mint Quarter Eagle issues from 1852-1859 (none were struck in 1858) are rare and desirable and are among the most sought after issues of the Liberty Head Quarter Eagle series. This coin was purchased from an Abner Kreisberg sale, 11/22/55, Lot 667, for \$26.

1776. **1852-O, Very Fine.** Partially prooflike, medium orange gold color, light to moderate handling marks and hairlines. Weak on the hair curls at the forehead and on the legs and talons of the eagle. Purchased from a Coin Galleries sale, 8/56, for \$11.50.

1777. **1853, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Fully lustrous with light yellow gold color. A thin hairline die break connects the bases of the numerals in the date to the 1st star. There are also noticeable die scratches under some of the letters in UNITED. In addition to a few light hairlines and handling marks, there is a shallow abrasion at the 4th star. Purchased from James Kelly in 1949 for \$10.50.

VERY RARE 1853-D QUARTER EAGLE



Softly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's left leg and right talons. Very weak denticles on much of the reverse, especially at the lower left. This is a lustrous coin with attractive light orange gold color. There is a tiny depression on the rim between the 2nd and 3rd stars, possibly "as made". The surfaces have a few very faint hairlines, but not many marks other than a small nick in the reverse field below the eagle's right wing. There are two diagonal raised die scratches on the obverse, one from the head to the rim just to the left of the 8th star, the other from the hair bun to the rim to the left of the 10th star. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's famous Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1213, for \$75.

Despite its slightly lower mintage, the 1853-D is approximately equivalent to the 1852-D in terms of both population rarity and condition rarity. It is rare in any condition and most known specimens grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine. Above the EF level, the 1853-D is very rare and only a few mint state pieces are known, none of which is better than minimal Uncirculated quality.

1779. **1854, Fine to Very Fine.** Cleaned, now dull and hairlined. Medium orange gold color with blue at the border. Purchased for \$4, date of purchase and seller unknown.





1780. 1854-C, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Light to medium orange gold color. Very weak on the hair curls around the face and also on the lower portions of the eagle. Dull surfaces, probably the result of being cleaned at one time, now with a number of light hairlines and minor handling marks. Recutting or doubling is visible on many obverse stars. This is another Quarter Eagle purchased by JJP at the Melish sale in 1956; the coin was Lot 1217 and realized \$27, well over the \$22.50 estimate.

VERY RARE 1854-D QUARTER EAGLE





1781. 1854-D, Extremely Fine. Softly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face and on the eagle's left leg and right talons. The surfaces are semi-prooflike and the coin has very attractive medium orange gold color. Some light hairlines and handling marks are visible, but nothing really serious. There are many raised die scratches or file marks at the denticles below the date and out to the left and right toward the 1st and 13th stars respectively. There are raised areas in and around several stars, most prominently between the 11th and

12th stars. This coin appeared in the Melish sale of 1956 as Lot 1218 where it realized \$200, but JJP actually purchased the coin privately from Abe Kosoff a few months after the sale on 8/25/56 for \$220.

The 1854-D is one of the rarest of all Liberty Head Quarter Eagles. Only 1,760 pieces were minted and it is doubtful if more than 50-60 pieces still exist, most of them in grades of Very Fine and Extremely Fine. A few mint state examples are known, but none reaches as high as the Choice level.

- 1782. **1854-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck except on the eagle's left leg. Partially prooflike with attractive light greenish-gold and copper color. There are some minor hairlines and handling marks on the surfaces and there are clash marks around the eagle. Purchased from New Netherlands 49th sale, Lot 614, for \$14.
- 1783. **1855, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck; frosty surfaces with pale orange gold color. Clash marks around the eagle, a few light hairlines and contact marks, and subdued luster. Purchased for \$7.25, seller and date of purchase unknown.
- 1784. 1855-C, Fine. Harshly cleaned and very heavily hairlined. Numerous fine scratches and contact marks. Extensively "worked on". Purchased from the 1963 ANA sale, Lot 1456, for \$170. This is not one of JJP's better purchases, but he needed it to complete his collection of Charlotte Mint gold coins and this was the best he could afford at the time.

VERY RARE 1855-D QUARTER EAGLE

One Of The Rarest Dahlonega Mint Issues





1785. 1855-D, Extremely Fine. Well struck on the obverse with just a little of the characteristic weakness on the hair curls around the forehead. On the reverse, the eagle is also generally well struck except for the omnipresent weakness on the eagle's legs and right talons. On both sides, the denticles are very weak and indistinct in places. There are minor planchet irregularities on the obverse at the end of Liberty's chin and by the 3rd star. These are "as made" and similar irregularities are quite common to 1855-D Quarter Eagles. This coin has only a relative few light hairlines and contact marks and is really very clean and attractive for the grade. Furthermore, it is a coin that probably many will grade higher than the EF grade I have assigned it. Purchased on 5/1/54 from James Kelly for \$100. JJP's coin envelope indicates the original asking price was \$150, so obviously he did his usual hard bargaining with "Diamond Jim" to obtain the best deal possible.

The 1855-D is a major rarity in any condition. It is one of the two rarest Dahlonega Mint Quarter Eagles, along with the 1856-D, and it is more rare than any D Mint Half Eagle, Gold Dollar or the 1854-D Three Dollar gold piece. In my book on U.S. Quarter Eagles that I wrote almost a quarter of a century ago, I estimated this issue to be Low Rarity-6, possibly even High Rarity-5. Over the intervening 23 years I have seen nothing to cause me to change that estimate, although I now think that the High Rarity-5 estimate probably most accurately describes the rarity of this issue. It is a close contest between the 1855-D and 1856-D Quarter Eagles for the distinction of being the rarest D Mint gold coin, and a fairly strong case can be made for either issue. Both are seldom seen in any grade and, when available, are typically only Very Fine and generally unattractive. This Pittman specimen offered here is a pleasant exception and, although not the finest known or even in the Condition Census, it is definitely one of the more attractive 1855-D Quarter Eagles that I have seen.

1786. 1856, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Softly struck on the hair curls around the forehead and on portions of the eagle, especially the left leg. Very lustrous and original with attractive pale copper and yellow gold color. There are some very light hairlines in the fields as well as a few widely scattered contact marks. Die deterioration is evident at the denticles on the upper left reverse and there is a long hairline above STATES. There is also die rust in the field by the last S of STATES.

1787. **1856, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Purchased as an impaired Proof from Abe Kosoff in 1957 for \$35. It is certainly very different in overall appearance from the preceding lot and most other mint state 1856 Quarter Eagles that I have seen, but I still do not believe it to be a Proof. However, interested bidders should examine the coin closely and make their own determination as to this coin's

original minting status. It is sharply struck with fully defined denticles and some prooflike surface remaining under hazy orange gold toning. Probably cleaned at one time, now with a number of hairlines and a few marks, including two on the neck and one on the truncation just above the 6 in the date. The edge is sharp and square, not rounded like on the preceding lot. In my opinion, this coin has probably been "worked on" to make it resemble a Proof, but it does have some Proof characteristics.

1788. **1856-C, Fine to Very Fine.** Numerous light hairlines, handling marks and scratches throughout the fields. Prominent planchet imperfection at the 2nd star. Medium orange gold color. Purchased from an Abner Kreisberg sale, 6/8/57, Lot 2447, for \$25.

VERY RARE 1856-D QUARTER EAGLE

Only 874 Minted — The Lowest Mintage Of Any D Mint Issue



1789. 1856-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Softly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face, ear and neck as well as on the eagle's legs, neck, talons and shield. This weak striking is characteristic of all known 1856-D Quarter Eagles. In fact, this issue is probably the most weakly struck and poorly made of all the Quarter Eagles from this mint. The color is a pale coppery gold and there are numerous light to moderate hairlines, marks and friction in the fields. The coin actually shows relatively little real wear and still has a trace of original mint luster. There is one tiny mark on the rim below the 6 in the date and another above and to the right of the 6 on the truncation. Despite the description, this is really a very

attractive example of this issue. Purchased by JJP from



the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 617, for \$260. The cataloguers noted that it had previously been in the New Netherlands 48th sale where it had realized \$300 but was being, "Reoffered on behalf of a delinquent account". Earlier, from the collection of Judge Thomas L. Gaskill.

The 1856-D Quarter Eagle is one of the lowest mintage issues in the entire Quarter Eagle series, indeed, one of the lowest mintage issues among all United States gold coins regardless of denomination. A mere 874 pieces were struck and the 1856-D is very similar in overall rarity to the slightly higher mintage 1855-D. Only 30-40 specimens are known, and the grade offered here is typical of the few available examples. Above the grade of Extremely Fine, the 1856-D Quarter Eagle is an extreme rarity.





1790. **1856-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck. A bit lackluster, but with attractive light orange and greenish-gold color. 185 of the date is weakly impressed into the die, the 6 only slightly sharper. There are some light hairlines and marks, but they are all very minor in nature. The arrow feather overlaps the top left side of the O mintmark. This is a very scarce and underrated issue in any condition. Even in Extremely Fine or Almost Uncirculated, the 1856-O is very difficult to locate and mint state specimens are extremely rare with no more than a few pieces known. Purchased from Stack's, 7/27/57, for \$25.

- 1791. **1856-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with lustrous medium yellow gold color. There is a carbon streak at the 2nd S in STATES. The fields have some light to moderate handling marks as well as a few faint hairlines, but the overall appearance is decent for the grade. Purchased from Mr. William Pollard, 11/13/55, for \$12.
- 1792. **1857, Extremely Fine.** Very lustrous with attractive light coppery gold color. A little soft on the hair curls at the forehead, but sharp elsewhere, although the 2nd star is flat and the 1st star is quite weak.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

RARE HIGH GRADE 1857-D QUARTER EAGLE





1793. **1857-D**, Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck on an excellent planchet, in marked contrast to all of the D Mint Quarter Eagles minted in 1856. This coin has considerable mint luster, semi-prooflike surfaces and attractive medium orange gold color. There are a few light marks as well as some faint hairlines, mostly on the obverse, but the overall eye appeal of the coin is

excellent. Only 2,364 pieces were minted, but this issue seems to be more often available in high circulated grades than most other Quarter Eagles from the Dahlonega Mint. Nevertheless, the 1857-D is very scarce, if not moderately rare, in AU, and mint state specimens are very rare. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas G. Melish sale, 4/56, Lot 1237, for \$65.

1794. **1857-O**, **Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Generally well struck except for a slight softness on the eagle's left leg. The surfaces are a little dull and have some light hairlines and a few minor marks. The color is a light greenish-gold and copper. Struck from the same reverse die used to mint the 1856-O with the arrow feather overlapping the mintmark at the upper left.





1795. **1857-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck. Attractive orange gold color with deeper shades around the stars, date and devices as well as the reverse legend. There are a few traces of carbon on the reverse, but the surfaces are quite clean with only a few light hairlines and handling marks. Considerable mint luster remains. This is a very rare issue in mint state, but it is only moderately scarce below the Uncirculated level. Purchased by JJP from a Hollinbeck Coin Co. mail bid sale, 10/31/57, Lot 1071, for \$20.75.

MINT STATE 1858 QUARTER EAGLE



1796. 1858, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck despite a slight weakness on the eagle. Numerous light planchet striations are present in the fields on both sides. The coin has full original mint luster and beautiful light orange gold color. There is one hairline in front of the face, another above the eagle's head below STATES. There are also a few minor contact marks, none serious. A high wire rim is evident on portions of both the obverse and reverse. This is a very scarce issue in mint state, especially so at or near the Choice Uncirculated level; true Gems are rare. JJP purchased this coin from Stack's famous sale of the Dr. Clifford Smith Collection, 5/7/55, Lot 1534, for \$14.





1797. **1858-C**, Extremely Fine. Softly struck on the hair curls around the forehead and on portions of the eagle, especially the left leg. Highly lustrous, partially prooflike surfaces with attractive greenish-gold and coppery gold color. Some minor friction and hairlines in the fields but, overall, this is a very attractive coin for the grade. The 1858-C is a scarce date in all grades, as are all C Mint Quarter Eagles, but it is more available than most other Quarter Eagle issues from this Mint with the exception of the relatively common 1847-C as well as the 1843-C Large Date and possibly the 1848-C. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1242, for \$23.

The 1858-C Quarter Eagle was struck from the same reverse die as the 1856-C. The 1859-C Quarter Eagle was also struck from this same die. It seems to have been the practice of the Charlotte Mint to use a given Quarter Eagle reverse die for a three year period. Quarter Eagles from this Mint dated 1846, 1847 and 1848 were struck with the same reverse, those of 1849, 1850, and 1851 used a common reverse, the issues of 1852, 1854, and 1855 used the same reverse and, finally, the three Quarter Eagle issues of 1856, 1858, and 1860 also used a common reverse. According to John McCloskey, this final reverse that was used, "Is similar to the previous one except that it (the mintmark) is a little lower in the field and the feather does not extend through the arc of the mintmark. There have been reports that the 1856-C exists with the previous reverse, but I have never seen it."

1798. **1859, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Type I, Reverse of 1840-1858. Sharply struck with partially prooflike fields and medium orange gold color. There is a high wire rim on the upper obverse and considerable luster beneath the light to moderate friction and hairlines in the fields. Purchased from a Mr. Coston, 8/26/53, for \$9.

RARE 1859-D QUARTER EAGLE





1799. **1859-D, Extremely Fine.** Lustrous medium orange gold color. Some light friction and hairlines in the fields as well as a small abrasion in front of the face and marks on the 8 of the date. There is one long hairline from the 2nd star to the truncation of the bust. The strike is a little soft on the hair curls around the face and on portions of the eagle, especially the legs and talons. The denticles are somewhat weak in places, but not nearly as much so as on most D Mint Quarter Eagles of the mid-1850's, even though the 1859-D shares a common reverse with those earlier issues. Overall, this is an attractive coin for an Extremely Fine

1859-D; it was catalogued as AU in the Melish sale where the cataloguing and grading were generally ultra-conservative. This was lot 1244 in the Melish sale and JJP paid \$52.50 for it.

This is the final Quarter Eagle issue from the Dahlonega Mint. It is a very low mintage item with only 2,244 pieces struck, but it is not as rare as that low mintage would indicate. It is very similar in overall rarity to the 1857-D and, although mint state examples are extremely rare and almost never available, nice Extremely Fine and Almost Uncirculated examples are seen with more frequency than one might expect from the low mintage.





1800. 1859-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Dull medium orange gold color. Light hairlines and minor marks throughout the fields. The entire lower half of the mintmark is filled. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 298, for \$29. Earlier, from the Judge Thomas L. Gaskill Collection. Despite its much higher mintage of 15,200 pieces versus the 2,244 of the 1859-D, the 1859-S is substantially more rare than the 1859-D, especially in grades above EF.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1860 QUARTER EAGLE





1801. 1860, Gem Proof. 112 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields, slightly hazy surfaces, and beautiful medium yellow gold color. There is one faint horizontal hairline on the jaw, but the coin is otherwise extremely clean with no more than a few trivial scattered hairlines. There is a lint mark in the field to the right of the lowest curl of the hair bun. The date starts high in the field (with the 1 closer to the bust than to the denticles) and slants down sharply to the right. I am not aware of a business strike from these dies and so it is possible that this is a Proof-only variety. (Most business strikes have the date low and level.) Purchased

from Kreisberg-Schulman's 2/18/61 sale (which featured the great Gustav Lichtenfels Half Dollar Collection), Lot 1038, for \$475.

Although the mint record reports that 112 Proof 1860 Quarter Eagles were minted, the issue is far more rare than that mintage would indicate. In fact, in Proof, the 1860 Quarter Eagle is only a little less rare than most other dates in the 1860's and 1870's of which only 25-50 Proofs were minted. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that most of the mintage remained unsold at the end of the year and were subsequently minted. In my opinion, at most 20-25 Proof 1860 Quarter Eagles still exist today, only a handful of which match the quality of this Gem specimen.

1802. **1860,** Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck and lustrous with attractive medium yellow gold color and light to moderate hairlines and handling marks. There is a scratch behind the hair curl at the back of Liberty's neck running in the direction of the 13th star. Purchased at the Penn-Ohio show, 11/12/55, for \$11, seller unknown.





1803. **1860-C, Extremely Fine.** Fairly well struck on the obverse, but the reverse is very weak as it is on all known specimens due to die deterioration and wear. Some original

mint luster remains and the coin has attractive, but slightly irregular orange gold color. There are light to moderate hairlines and contact marks in the fields as well as one fine scratch between the 5th and 6th stars. This is the last year of Quarter Eagle production at the Charlotte Mint. Despite its very low mintage of only 7,469 pieces, this issue is seen more often than many other higher mintage Charlotte Mint Quarter Eagles. However, almost without exception, the 1860-C Quarter Eagle is among the most unattractive of all C Mint Quarter Eagle issues. This coin was purchased by JJP from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1248 for \$32.50.

1804. **1860-S**, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck; dull and cleaned, now fairly heavily hairlined. Some dirt and encrustation remains around the legend, date and denticles. There is a large bruise on the rim below and to the left of the 1 in the date. Purchased from a James Kelly sale, 4/21/57, Lot 303, for \$36.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1861 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known





1805. **1861, Very Choice Proof.** 90 Proofs minted. Type II reverse, as are all Proofs of this date. Sharply struck and fully brilliant with an attractive cameo appearance. The fields have a few light hairlines along with some planchet lines that were not fully eliminated by the striking process. One faint horizontal hairline runs from the 5th star above the coronet and hair. There are also a couple of very tiny contact marks in the obverse field. The coin is a very rich medium yellow gold color. Very flashy and attractive despite the few hairlines. Purchased from Kreisberg-Schulman's "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/62, Lot 2283, for \$950.

Reportedly 90 Proof 1861 Quarter Eagles were minted, but it is undoubtedly the case that most of them were never sold and were subsequently melted in early 1862. This issue in Proof is quite a bit more

rare than the 1860, itself a notable rarity, and it is also more rare than the famous Proof-only 1863 as well as most of the other Proof Quarter Eagles of this decade of which only 25-50 specimens were minted. In my opinion, only 10-12 Proof 1861 Quarter Eagles still exist, the comparable quality Ed Trompeter: 41 coin being the only other example seen in recent years. Note: Although JJP purchased this Proof at the Kreisberg-Schulman sale for \$950, by 1962 he was no longer purchasing coins with "out-of-pocket" money. After 1961, essentially all of his new acquisitions were financed through trades. Typically, his system worked as follows. He consigned coins to his good friend, Abe Kosoff, who then sold them and kept the money on account for JIP. When IJP wanted to make a purchase, either privately or at public auction, he directed Kosoff to pay for the purchase out of his account. This is the method JJP used to acquire this coin, the Proof 1862 and 1864 Quarter Eagles that follow, and virtually every other coin that he acquired for his collection after 1961.

- 1806. **1861, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Type II reverse. Very weak on the eagle's left talons. Frosty and lustrous with medium orange gold color.
- 1807. **1861, Almost Uncirculated.** Type II reverse. Medium greenish-gold color, light hairlines and minor handling marks. A couple of rim nicks are noticeable on the obverse.





Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.

1808. 1861-S, Extremely Fine. Type I reverse, as are all specimens of this issue. Sharply struck and lustrous with semiprooflike surfaces and light to medium orange gold color. The surfaces have light to moderate contact marks and hairlines that are consistent with the EF grade. This is a very scarce and underrated issue. It is much more difficult to locate than many of the more popular C and D Mint issues of the 1840's and 1850's, and nearly all of the relatively few known specimens grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine at best. In the highest circulated grades and in mint state, this issue is an extreme rarity. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 303, for \$17.

VERY RARE PROOF 1862 OUARTER EAGLE



1809. 1862, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 35 Proofs minted. The reverse of this coin is very nice, grading at least Choice, if not finer. The obverse, however, has quite a few light hairlines which necessitate the reduced grade. The coin is fully struck with deep mirror fields and a frosted head and eagle. There is a high wire rim on the right obverse and upper left reverse. The color is a rich yellow gold and the proof luster is excellent. Purchased at the same sale as the 1861, namely Kreisberg-Schulman's "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/62, Lot 2285, for \$1,000.

Despite its much lower mintage, the 1862 Quarter Eagle is actually not quite as rare in Proof as the 1861. Of the 35 Proofs struck very early in the year, it is estimated that only 14-17 pieces still survive with this specimen typical of the usually available quality.

- 1810. **1862, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with light greenishgold and orange color. Deep pin scratches on the face. Purchased in Toronto from a Mr. Graham on 4/21/56 for \$10.
- 1811. **1862-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Type I reverse, as are all 1862-S Quarter Eagles. Sharply struck and lustrous with medium orange-gold color. Several prominent rim nicks on the reverse above STATES, smaller ones below the date. This is a very rare issue, one that is seldom available in any condition. Only 8,000 pieces were minted, virtually all of which must have gone into immediate circulation since high grade circulated specimens and mint state examples are essentially unobtainable. Much more rare than most of the C and D Mint issues of the 1840's and 1850's. Purchased by JJP from the William Donlon sale (Abe Kosoff, 11/24/56), Lot 1203, for \$21.

1812. **1863-S, Extremely Fine.** Type I reverse. Deep cuts on the obverse rim and a scrape below the eagle's left wing. Medium orange-gold color. Only 10,800 pieces were struck; not quite as rare as the 1862-S, but equally difficult to locate in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. Purchased from an M.H. Bolender sale, 3/22/57, Lot 1945, for \$10.25.

VERY RARE PROOF 1864 QUARTER EAGLE



1813. 1864, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 50 Proofs minted. Nearly identical in overall appearance and quality to the 1862 offered earlier. Sharply struck with deeply mirrorlike fields and frosted head and eagle. Slightly cloudy surfaces and attractive medium yellow gold color that has a slight coppery tint. Lightly hairlined on both sides with the hairlines more evident on the obverse than on the reverse. There is a small contact mark between the 11th and 12th stars and a flurry of hairlines under 18 of the date, all of which serve to keep the coin out of the Choice category. Purchased by JJP at the same time as he obtained the 1861 and 1862 Proof Quarter Eagles. It was acquired from Kreisberg-Schulman's "Golden Sale of the Century", 3/62, Lot 2286, for \$1350. This coin was purchased at the sale by JJP, but paid for by Abe Kosoff with funds he had received for coins he had sold on JJP's behalf.

The 1864 had one of the higher Proof mintages of any Quarter Eagle of the decade, 50 pieces. However, some portion of this mintage must have been melted rather than sold because the 1864 is just as rare in Proof as the 1862 which had a mintage of only 35 pieces, as well as some other issues which had even lower mintages. Approximately 14-17 Proofs of this date are known.

- 1814. **1865-S, Extremely Fine.** Weakly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's legs and talons. Attractive medium orange-gold color. A few minor rim problems on the obverse, mostly "as made". The date is repunched, the repunching evident at the bases of the numerals. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 629, for \$13.
- 1815. **1866-S, Extremely Fine.** Very sharply struck. Light orange-gold obverse, irregular copper/rust colored reverse. Many light hairlines on the obverse plus a couple of pin scratches in the fields. Purchased from Abe Kosoff in 1956 for \$15.

VERY RARE PROOF 1867 QUARTER EAGLE





1816. 1867, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 50 Proofs minted. Similar in overall quality to the 1862 and 1864 Proofs offered earlier. Very sharply struck with a broad border, a sharp square edge, and a partial wire rim on both sides. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the head and eagle are lightly frosted giving the coin an attractive cameo appearance. The color is an attractive medium coppery gold. Identifiable by a copper/carbon spot between the 12th and 13th stars near the denticles. A hairline scratch runs from a denticle past the left side of the 1 in the date to the truncation; an even fainter scratch

is at the 2nd star. There are also a few light hairlines in both the obverse and reverse fields. Despite these minor problems, the coin is still very flashy and attractive. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1263 for \$195.

Fifty Proof Quarter Eagles were struck in 1867, the same number as were minted in 1864. However, it is unlikely that the entire mintage of Proof 1867 Quarter Eagles was sold since this issue is almost as rare today as most of the other Proof issues of the 1860's, nearly all of which had much lower mintages. Of the original 50 Proofs minted, no more than 14-17 specimens still exist.

- 1817. 1867-S, Very Fine. Cleaned and dull, now a medium orange-gold color. There are quite a few light hairlines and minor marks in the fields as well as several faint scratches in the right reverse field below the eagle's wing. JJP's coin envelope notes, "To be replaced", indicating he was not satisfied with the quality of this coin. Purchased from the Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1264, for \$19.
- 1818. **1868, Very Fine.** Lightly burnished, pale yellow gold color. Numerous marks and hairlines in the fields. There is a small die lump on the neck, another even smaller one adjacent to the penultimate curl on the neck. These are present on all business strikes and not the Proofs. This is a scarce issue as a business strike, but it is not as rare as one might expect from the low mintage of only 3,600 pieces. Mint state examples, however, are extremely rare and almost never better than minimal Uncirculated. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1265 for \$21.





1819. 1868-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck except for the usual weakness on the eagle's left leg. Lustrous medium orange and greenish-gold color. The obverse is quite clean with just a few hairlines and handling marks as well as one tiny depression on Liberty's chin. The reverse has more hairlines and marks but is still decent quality. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 315, for \$21.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1869 QUARTER EAGLE





1820. **1869, Choice Proof.** 25 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with a square edge, a complete and fairly uniform wire rim on both sides, cloudy medium coppery gold color, and a few light hairlines under the haze. The overall appearance is very good and the coin has no nicks, marks, scratches or impairments of any significant nature other than the few hairlines. Importantly, the face

of Liberty and the fields are quite clean. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/18/61, Lot 1046, for \$500.

A mere $2\overline{5}$ Proof Quarter Eagles were struck in 1869 and there are even fewer survivors of this denomination than there are of the Gold Dollar of the same date. The 1869 Quarter Eagle is also slightly more rare in Proof than the 1862, 1864 and 1867 offered earlier in this sale; only an estimated 12-15 specimens are thought to exist.

- 1821. **1869-S, Fine to Very Fine.** Cleaned and dull, now a medium orange gold color. Weakly struck. This piece appears to have been used as jewelry as there are irregularities on the rim. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's William Donlon sale, 11/24/56, Lot 1206, for \$14. (Note: Not every purchase can be a great one.)
- 1822. **1870, Extremely Fine.** The assigned grade is based on the amount of wear, but there is an attempted puncture mark above Liberty's head that reduces the value to that of a Fine or Very Fine specimen at best. The surfaces are mostly prooflike and have numerous marks, friction and hairlines. Purchased from Stack's James Spaulding White sale, 2/27/60, Lot 899.
- 1823. **1870-S, Very Fine.** Lustrous for the grade, light coppery gold color. Numerous hairlines and handling marks, some rather prominent on the reverse. Purchased from M.L. Kaplan, 2/20/58 for \$20.

Catalogue Descriptions

Coin descriptions in this catalogue are written based on the viewer's orientation as opposed to that of the design element being described. For example, a comment about the "eagle's left wing" refers to the wing on the viewer's left even though, technically, it is the eagle's right wing. The cataloguer (David W. Akers) prefers this method of description, but readers are advised that some other cataloguers use the opposite convention. Perhaps the least ambiguous manner of description would be to say, "The eagle's wing on the left side of the coin", but this seems rather cumbersome and wordy.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1871 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known



1824. 1871, Very Choice Proof. 30 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. The surfaces have a very light haze and are a beautiful coppery gold color with several darker copper spots behind Liberty's head and on the shield. There is a tiny planchet depression "as made" in the field between the beak and the A in STATES. The fields and devices are very clean and have only a few very faint hairlines. There are two parallel raised die scratches on the truncation of the bust above the 8 as well as a raised die rust lump to the left of the bottom hair curl on the neck. The first 1 in the date nearly touches the bust; the other numerals slope down to the right with the final 1 distant from the bust. These characteristics define this Proof-only variety. (Note: On the business strikes, the date is nearly level with the 1's in the date approximately equidistant from the bust.) Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 6/8/48, for \$42.50.

Based on the number of specimens that I have seen and am aware of, it is my opinion that the 1871 is one of the three rarest Proof Quarter Eagles from 1860-1907 along with the 1861 and 1878. Some other issues, like the 1874, 1875, and 1877, are also very rare, but I have seen a few more Proofs of all of those lower mintage issues than I have of the 1861, 1871 and 1878. In my opinion, only 10-12 Proof 1871 Quarter Eagles can still be accounted for today, few of which have appeared on the market in recent years, the last seen being the similar quality Ed Trompeter: 51 coin sold by Superior in 1992.

1825. **1871-S, Extremely Fine.** The usual weakness on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's leg; very sharp elsewhere. Attractive medium orange gold color. Several digs around the denomination and a heavy abrasion under the eagle's left wing. Purple discoloration at the date and 13th star. Purchased from Abe Kosoff, 6/28/57, for \$20.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1872 QUARTER EAGLE



1826. 1872, Gem Proof. 30 Proofs minted. This is an outstanding coin, one of the finest Proof 1872 Quarter Eagles in existence. It is very sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and a partial wire rim. There is a tiny planchet imperfection "as made" by the reverse denticles below and to the right of the D in the denomination. There is also a tiny lint mark in the field between the eagle's neck and OF, another tiny one below the left wing. The surfaces are entirely original and slightly cloudy, and are a superb medium orange gold color. Under the slight haze, there are only a few very faint hairlines and the overall appearance and eye appeal of this lovely Proof are absolutely first-rate. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas G. Melish sale, 4/56, Lot 1274, for \$170.

Despite having the same mintage in Proof as the 1871 Quarter Eagle (30 pieces), the 1872 is not quite as rare as the 1871. This could mean that either some of the Proofs minted in 1871 were not actually released and were later melted, or it could mean that for some unknown reason the 1871 has experienced a higher attrition rate over the years. In Proof, the 1872 Quarter Eagle is roughly comparable in rarity to the 1869 with only 12-15 specimens known.

1827. 1872-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now dull and moderately hairlined. Light orange gold color. There are also some minor contact marks in the fields. Purchased from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 640, for \$12.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1873 QUARTER EAGLE



- 1828. 1873, Proof. 25 Proofs minted. Closed 3, as are all Proof Quarter Eagles of this year. This piece is slightly impaired with numerous marks and hairlines throughout the fields. It is sharply struck with a square edge and it still has most of its original proof surface intact. The coin is very brilliant and lustrous and is an attractive medium yellow gold color. There are two noticeable nicks on Liberty's neck. Like all the gold denominations of 1873 in Proof, the Quarter Eagle is very rare; no more than 12-15 examples are known. Purchased from David Bullowa in 1952, price unknown. JJP's envelope is marked, "Okay'ed by H. Boosel", a specialist in 1873 coinage. I am not sure exactly what this means, but perhaps JJP wanted Boosel's opinion as to the Proof status of the coin since it is slightly impaired. Note: No one of his era knew more about U.S. Proof coins than JJP. However, he was a scholar in the true sense of the word and he always appreciated and sought the opinions of other experts, even if only to confirm his own opinion.
- 1829. **1873, Open 3. Extremely Fine.** Sharp and lustrous with attractive coppery gold color. There is an "X" scratched above the eagle's head and there are other marks in the fields as well as on Liberty's face. Purchased in 1957 from an unknown auction, Lot 1242, for \$11.50.
- 1830. 1873-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Closed 3, as are all 1873-S Quarter Eagles. Light to medium coppery gold color; some dirt and/or carbon in the reverse legend and around the date. The surfaces are slightly dull and hairlined and they also have a few minor contact marks. Purchased from a James, Inc. sale, 3/20/58, Lot 59a, for \$15.50.

1831. **1874, Very Fine.** Pale orange gold color. Deep scrape on the reverse across the shafts of the top two arrows. Nick on the reverse rim above the second A in AMERICA. A very scarce, low mintage issue with only 3,920 pieces struck for circulation. Purchased from a Stack's Coin Galleries mail bid sale, August 1956, Lot 147, for \$21.

VERY RARE 1875 QUARTER EAGLE



1832. **1875, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Partially prooflike, as are all business strikes of this issue. Lustrous light orange gold color, moderate hairlines and handling marks. Based on the appearance of the edge, this coin was possibly in a pressure mount at one time, but not soldered. Purchased as a "mishandled Proof" from Garland Stevens for \$400, date of purchase unknown, but probably in the early 1960's.

The 1875 Quarter Eagle is one of the premier rarities of this series; only 420 pieces were minted, a mintage figure which includes the 20 Proofs. Over the years, many business strikes have been misattributed as Proofs, but there really should be no confusion since they were struck from different dies. All business strikes were struck from a single pair of dies and are easily distinguished by the position of the date. The 1 in the date is close to the bust and the other numerals slant down to the right with the 5 distant from the truncation. On Proofs, the date is level and the right tip of the horizontal bar of the 5 nearly touches the bust.

1833. **1875-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Generally well struck except for the typical weakness on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's left leg. Dull medium orange gold color. The surfaces have the light hairlines and handling marks associated with the modest grade. Purchased from the New Netherlands 48th sale, 11/24/56, Lot 53, for \$18. Formerly in the collection of Judge Thomas L. Gaskill.

VERY RARE PROOF 1876 QUARTER EAGLE



1834. 1876, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 45 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and brilliant medium yellow gold color. There are some light hairlines and trivial contact marks in the field in front of Liberty's face and some light hairlines above the eagle's head. There is a partial wire rim on the obverse. JJP acquired this Proof as part of a partial 1876 gold Proof set from B.A. Seaby of London, England, on 8/25/47. He paid \$500 for the partial set which consisted of the Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Three Dollar Gold piece and the Half Eagle. At the time JJP made this purchase, it was the most money that he had ever spent on one item, although the item did consist of four individual coins.

Although certainly very rare, the 1876 is the most "common" Quarter Eagle in Proof prior to 1882, just slightly less rare than the 1860. It is similar in rarity to the Gold Dollar and Three Dollar Gold piece of the same date; at least two dozen specimens exist, possibly even a few more.

1835. **1876-S, Extremely Fine.** Technically, Almost Uncirculated from the standpoint of wear, but harshly cleaned and now rather heavily hairlined, especially on the obverse. Medium orange gold color. The diagnostic rectangular die lump is present on the jaw and neck. Scarce in any grade; only 5,000 pieces were struck. Purchased from one of B. Max Mehl's final sales, sale No. 116, 11/1/55, Lot 1602, for \$13.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1877 QUARTER EAGLE

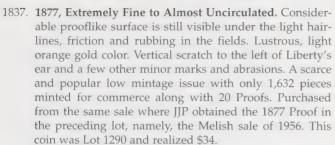


1836. 1877, Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. 20 Proofs minted. An original specimen with a light natural haze, deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge and superb light to medium orange gold color. The surfaces are extremely clean and free of contact marks, but there are a number of lint marks and microscopic planchet chips or depressions, all "as made". The most noticeable lint marks are on the reverse, including one under the eagle's right wing, a long one across the I of AMERICA and another by the denticles between C and A of AMERICA. There are some bright lines on the reverse above UNIT and lighter ones of a similar nature by AMER, possibly "as made", but more likely hairlines. If they were present in the planchet at the time of striking, the coin would grade much higher than the Choice Proof designation I have assigned it; in fact, it easily could be called a Gem. However, they look like hairlines to me and I have downgraded the coin accordingly. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1289, for \$130.

Along with several other issues of this decade (1874, 1875 and 1878) the 1877 had the lowest Proof mintage of any Liberty Head Quarter Eagle after 1859; a mere 20 pieces were minted and only an estimated 12-15 examples are known today.











1838. 1877-S, Uncirculated. Lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces with beautiful light orange gold color. Faint hairlines and minor contact marks in the fields; there is a small copper/carbon spot on Liberty's ear. This is the first San Francisco Mint Quarter Eagle to use the Type II reverse that was first used at the Philadelphia Mint in 1859. Although moderately scarce in strictly Uncirculated condition (and very rare above the Choice Uncirculated level), the 1877-S is one of the two most common San Francisco Mint Quarter Eagles along with the 1878-S. Purchased from a French's sale, 10/27/56, Lot 1336, for \$17.50.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1878 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known





1839. 1878, Choice Proof. 20 Proofs minted. This is a very attractive, high quality example of this extremely rare Proof issue. It is very sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and slightly hazy, cloudy toning covering beautiful coppery gold surfaces. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but most of the lines that are present were actually in the planchet at the time of striking and were not eliminated by the minting process. There is, however, one small, bright hairline in front of

the neck, but that is the only one that is really noticeable and all that keeps the coin from an even higher grade. The rim is very broad and square and the edge has a prominent wire rim in places. Purchased on 6/8/48 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$55.

The 1878 is one of the rarest of all Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagles from 1860-1907. A mere 20 Proofs were struck and only 10-12 examples still exist today, placing the Proof 1878 Quarter Eagle in the same rarity class as the Proofs of 1861 and 1871.

1840. **1878-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Weakly struck at the hair curls by the forehead and on the eagle's left leg. Medium yellow gold color with some copper highlights.

Dull and hairlined. Purchased from a French's sale, 10/27/56, Lot 1339, for \$11.

- 1841. **1879, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and lustrous with medium orange gold color and a few light hairlines and contact marks. Purchased from a Jim Charlton sale, 11/26/53, Lot 292, for \$10.50.
- 1842. **1879-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Cleaned and dull, now with many light hairlines. Medium orange gold color. Purchased from C. Foster for \$8.25, date of purchase unknown.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1880 QUARTER EAGLE





1843. 1880, Very Choice Proof. 36 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge, a partial wire rim on the reverse, and deep mirror fields. This is an original, uncleaned specimen that has a beautiful light natural haze over medium orange gold surfaces. A lint mark runs from the first 8 of the date to the denticles at the left and there are several microscopic planchet chips "as made" on the reverse. There are a few very light hairlines present, but no handling marks, and the coin's overall eye appeal is excellent. A trace of die rust is present on

Liberty's neck by the vertical hair curl. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale, Lot 1301, for \$120.

With only 36 Proofs minted, the 1880 Quarter Eagle is obviously a great rarity in Proof, although it is not quite as rare as most of the issues immediately preceding it. In terms of the number of pieces known, the 1880 in Proof is approximately equal to the 1860 and slightly more rare than the 1876. Approximately 20-25 Proof 1880 Quarter Eagles are known, only a few of which are as choice, original and attractive as the Pittman specimen offered here.



1844. 1881, Very Fine. Cleaned at one time, now with medium orange gold color. There is a deep scratch on the reverse running from the bottom of the eagle's right wing into the field above the top arrowhead; there is also a sharp edge nick on the rim above AM in AMERICA. In addition to other light hairlines and handling marks, there is also a nick in the field behind Liberty's neck. Despite its "problems", this is still a desirable coin due to the popularity



and rarity of the issue which are based on its low mintage of only 640 business strikes. Surprisingly, this is the only Proof Quarter Eagle from 1880-1915 that JJP never owned. Certainly, Proof 1881 Quarter Eagles were available from time to time during his collecting career, but for some reason JJP just never purchased one. Acquired by JJP from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1302, for \$55.

RARE AND VERY CHOICE PROOF 1882 QUARTER EAGLE



1845. 1882, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem class. 67 Proofs minted. Slightly nicer than the 1880 and likely to be graded a Gem by many viewers. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful medium coppery gold color. The surfaces have a light natural haze, something seen on many, if not most, original, uncleaned U.S. gold Proof coins from the 19th Century. Under the haze, there are a few very light hairlines, including several above the eagle's head and right wing as well as a faint one from the chin to the first star. The few other lines present are planchet lines that were not eliminated by



the striking process. Purchased by JJP from the Thomas Melish sale where he purchased a great many wonderful coins; this piece was Lot 1303 and was described as "Superb brilliant proof"; it realized \$105 against an estimate of only \$90, a strong indicator of its quality. As one would expect from its mintage, the 1882 Quarter Eagle is less rare in Proof than any of the issues preceding it. Approximately half of the original 67 minted still exist today, meaning that approximately 30-35 Proof 1882 Quarter Eagles are known.

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1883 QUARTER EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Examples



1846. 1883, Gem Proof. 82 Proofs minted. This is an absolutely superb specimen, one of the finest Proof Quarter Eagles in the John Jay Pittman Collection. It is very nearly "as struck" and is as choice as any specimen in existence. It is boldly struck with a sharp square edge, deep mirror fields and lovely cameo appearance due to the frosted head and eagle. There is a high wire rim around much of the edge, especially prominent on the obverse. The color is a beautiful light coppery gold and the mirror fields are



virtually flawless and pristine, free of marks, hairlines or any impairments whatsoever. Despite its slightly higher mintage, the 1883 is as rare in Proof as the 1882, perhaps even slightly more so; only 30-35 specimens are thought to exist. Purchased from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of 2/18/61, Lot 1064, for \$375. In his catalogue description, Abner Kreisberg commented on the quality of this coin by noting, "If you want the best, this is another example of perfection". I could not agree more.

RARE GEM PROOF 1884 QUARTER EAGLE





1847. 1884, Gem Proof. 73 Proofs minted. This is an outstanding coin with rich orange gold color, a full strike and deep mirror fields. The edge is sharp and square and there is a high wire rim on the reverse and a partial wire rim along the bottom portion of the obverse. There is a tiny lint mark in the field near the hair bun and a microscopic planchet chip "as made" between stars 11 and 12. There is a copper toning spot at E of AMERICA and another tiny lint mark above the olive branch. In terms of its overall eye appeal, this piece is absolutely first-rate

and compares favorably with the magnificent 1883 in the preceding lot; it is one of the finest Proof Quarter Eagles in the John Jay Pittman Collection. In Proof, the 1884 Quarter Eagle is very similar in rarity to the 1882 and 1883. Approximately 30-35 specimens are thought to exist, all but a handful of which fall substantially short of this specimen in terms of overall quality. This coin was acquired from the Thomas G. Melish Collection sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in April 1956. It appeared as Lot 1305 and was purchased by JJP for \$95.

RARE PROOF 1885 QUARTER EAGLE





1848. 1885, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 87 Proofs minted. This coin would easily grade Choice Proof if it were not for a noticeable scrape in the field at the tip of the truncation of the bust. There are also a few light hairlines under the natural haze in front of the face. The coin has beautiful light to medium orange and coppery gold color and can be identified by a copper spot on the vertical hair curl on the neck. The strike is absolutely full and there is a noticeable wire rim on both sides. A raised

die rust lump appears on the rim below the D in the denomination on the reverse. In Proof, the 1885 is similar in rarity to the 1882, 1883 and 1884 Quarter Eagles in the preceding lots even though its mintage was slightly greater. Approximately 30-35 Proofs are known, a substantial percentage of which have impairments that equal or exceed those on this particular specimen. Purchased from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of 2/18/61, Lot 1067, for \$425.

PROOF 1887 QUARTER EAGLE





1849. 1887, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 122 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields that have a slight orange peel texture. The coin has a light cloudy haze and is an attractive light to medium orange gold color. Faint hairlines are present on the obverse under the haze; the reverse has slightly heavier ones, especially on the lower half. There is a prominent copper (not carbon) stain at D of the denomination. This is a much nicer looking coin than the detailed verbal description makes it sound; the obverse is clearly in the Choice category, but the coin is downgraded overall due to moderate hairlines on the lower reverse. This is the most common Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagle to this point and the surviving specimens probably number in the range of 40-50 pieces.

PROOF 1888 QUARTER EAGLE





1850. 1888, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 97 Proofs minted. Well struck with mirror fields and some orange peel. The surfaces of the coin have a light cloudy haze, especially on the reverse, with the haze taking on a light multicolored iridescent color. The coin is a light orange gold color with some copper toning spots but no carbon. The hairlines are very light on the reverse, light to moderate on the obverse. I have seen worse Proofs graded Choice but, in my opinion, this specimen falls just short of that category. Despite its somewhat lower mintage, the 1888 in Proof is comparable in rarity to the 1887; an estimated 40-50 Proofs exist.

PROOF 1889 QUARTER EAGLE





1851. 1889, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 48 Proofs minted. Attractive medium yellow gold color with some orange peel texture to the mirrorlike fields. Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim on the obverse. Light to moderate hairlines on both sides as well as a long hairline scratch running horizontally above the eagle. This is the rarest Proof Quarter Eagle after 1880, comparable in rarity to the 1876. Approximately 25-30 specimens are estimated to exist. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/18/61, Lot 1073, for \$290.

CHOICE PROOF 1890 QUARTER EAGLE



1852. 1890, Choice Proof, possibly even finer. 93 Proofs minted. This piece has such good eye appeal that it initially gives the impression of being a significantly higher grade specimen than it is. However, close inspection reveals light hairlines in the obverse field behind the head (below the hair bun) and in front of the neck. The reverse is very clean, however, and is nearly in the Gem class, if not a full Gem. The surfaces have the light natural haze that is typical of many uncleaned Proof U.S. gold coins from the 19th Century, and the surfaces are an attractive light coppery gold color with a trace of iridescence that is imparted by the light haze. There is a lint mark in the field near the 4th star and another just to the left of the 6th star. In Proof, the 1890 is comparable in rarity to the Proofs of 1887 and 1888; it is not, however, as rare as the Proofs of 1889 and 1891. An estimated 40-50 Proof 1890 Quarter Eagles are thought to exist. Purchased from the same sale as the 1889, this as Lot 1074 for \$250.

CHOICE PROOF 1891 QUARTER EAGLE





1853. **1891, Choice Proof.** 80 Proofs minted. Double punched date, the repunching not visible at the first 1, but very faint at the bottom of the 8 and clear and distinct at both the 9 and the final 1. This is a Proof-only variety and, furthermore, all Proofs of this date are this variety. This coin is fully struck with mirror fields, considerable orange peel surface, and attractive medium yellow gold color. The edge is sharp and square. There are a few light, well scattered hairlines, but the coin has an excellent overall

appearance. The 1891 is the rarest Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagle from 1890-1907; it is also more rare than the 1887 or 1888. Approximately 35-40 specimens are known. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Dr. Charles W. Green sale, 4/26/49, Lot 130, for \$26. Described by Mehl in the Green catalogue as "Perfect brilliant proof", which sounds pretty impressive until it is pointed out that Mehl called nearly every Proof that wasn't visibly impaired a "Perfect brilliant proof".

PROOF 1892 QUARTER EAGLE





1854. 1892, Proof. 105 Proofs minted. Slightly hazy surfaces with some light iridescent toning in the haze on the reverse. Moderate hairlines on the obverse, especially above Liberty's head, but there are also hairlines in front of the face and behind the neck. The reverse also has a moderate number of hairlines around the eagle. Doubling is visible on stars 1 to 4 as well as at the base of the 1 in the date. All the denticles on the reverse are separated and have mirror surface between them; denticles on the obverse are not

separated. This is a Proof-only variety and all Proof 1892 Quarter Eagles are this same variety. The strike is sharp and the fields are mirrorlike with some orange peel surface evident. This issue is more common in Proof than any of the Quarter Eagles that precede it. Approximately 50-60 specimens are known, although relatively few of them seem to be particularly choice. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery in October 1949 for \$21.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1893 QUARTER EAGLE



1855. 1893, Very Choice Proof. 106 Proofs minted. This is a very nice coin, noticeably superior to the 1891 and 1892 offered in the preceding two lots. It has beautiful light to medium coppery gold color and a very light cloudy haze over the surfaces. The strike is very sharp and the edge is square. There are a few light, widely scattered hairlines, but no contact marks, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. A trace of double punching is noted on the 93 of the date with the original numerals punched slightly to the left, then effaced and punched into the proper position. The original numerals are visible only at the lower left of the 9 and 3. This is a Proof-only variety and all Proof 1893 Quarter Eagles are from these dies. The 1893 Quarter Eagle in Proof is slightly more rare than the similar mintage 1892; approximately 45-55 examples are known. However, Proofs of 1893 are generally seen in



higher quality than those of 1892. JJP purchased this coin while attending the 1958 ANA convention. He bought it from a Mr. V. Greene for \$52.50. The price was determined by taking a 25% discount (\$17.50) from the value of \$70 that appeared in the 18th edition of the Standard Catalogue. This was common pricing practice in those days and most Proof gold coins were sold based upon a discount from either the Standard Catalogue value or the Red Book value. A typical discount, even for a very choice quality coin like this one, was typically 20%-25%. For a Proof gold coin to be priced at full catalogue, it had to be very close to perfect with great eye appeal, what we would probably call Proof-66 or Proof-67 today. The evaluation and pricing of coins, like grading, has certainly become much more finely tuned (some might say complicated) over the past 40 years!

BORDERLINE GEM PROOF 1894 QUARTER EAGLE



1856. 1894, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 122
Proofs minted. The surfaces have a light natural cloudy haze and the color is a very attractive medium coppery gold. There are only a few very light hairlines under the cloudiness. The coin is very sharply struck with a high wire rim around much of the edge. The face of Liberty is very clean and the surfaces have hardly a trace of an orange peel surface. There is a tiny copper spot at the 3rd star and a small mark, probably "as made", on the tip of the chin. The overall appearance of this coin is excellent



and I believe that most people will call it a full Gem. Beginning with this year, the availability of Proof Quarter Eagles increases significantly. Although the mintage of Proof Quarter Eagles was not dramatically higher in 1894 than in earlier years, there definitely are more Proof 1894 Quarter Eagles around than there are those of any previous issue. At least 60-70 specimens still exist and a number of them are very high quality. This coin was purchased privately by JJP from New Netherlands Coin Co., 6/8/48, for \$18.50.

PROOF 1895 QUARTER EAGLE





1857. 1895, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 119 Proofs minted. Sharply struck and quite flashy with medium orange gold color, a slight natural cloudiness, and deep mirror fields that have a hint of an orange peel texture. There are some minor hairlines under the light haze in the field in front of the face, but the coin is otherwise

quite nice, especially on the reverse which is at least Choice Proof quality, and on the face of Liberty. Similar in rarity to the 1894 with approximately 60-70 Proofs known. Purchased 6/22/49 from Maryland dealer, John Zug, for \$25.

GORGEOUS GEM PROOF 1896 QUARTER EAGLE





1858. 1896, Gem Proof. 132 Proofs minted. This is one of the finest of JJP's Proof Quarter Eagles. It is sharply struck with deep mirror fields and very light natural cloudiness, a hallmark of the fact that it has never been cleaned, dipped or otherwise tampered with in any fashion. The head of Liberty and the eagle are frosted giving the coin a beautiful cameo effect. The color is a rich coppery gold with some iridescent highlights to the haze. There are no marks or hairlines on the coin, just a few tiny breaks in the film behind the head and in front of the face; the surface of the coin has not been disturbed, just the haze. This is a great looking coin that is just about as choice as one

could hope to find. The 1896 in Proof is similar in overall rarity to the 1894 and 1895; approximately 60-70 Proofs are thought to exist. This was one of JJP's many purchases from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale in 1956. It appeared as Lot 1320 in that sale and realized \$65 which was \$5 over the \$60 estimate. As explained in the commentary to Lot 1855 concerning the pricing and evaluation of Proof gold coins during the 1950's and 1960's, the fact that this coin realized over estimate is ample testimony to its quality since estimates were typically based on the current catalogue value and most Proof gold coins sold at a discount from their catalogue value.

GEM PROOF 1897 QUARTER EAGLE



1859. **1897**, **Gem Proof**. 136 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and almost no orange peel surface. There is just a very slight trace of the type of haze seen on most of the Proofs offered earlier. The surfaces are a rich yellow gold color and are very clean with no postminting marks or hairlines. There is, however, a tiny lint mark on Liberty's nose and a couple of microscopic planchet chips, "as made", by the lowest vertical hair curl. The head of Liberty and the eagle are lightly frosted giving the coin a nice cameo appearance. There is one

small rim nick in the wire rim opposite the 1st star, but



the coin is otherwise superb and nearly pristine. Despite its similar mintage to the 1896, and even slightly higher mintage than the 1894 and 1895, the 1897 is somewhat more rare in Proof than those issues. Perhaps some of the gold Proofs of 1897 were melted or, more likely, the 1897 just suffered a slightly higher attrition rate over the last 100 years. Today, approximately 55-65 Proof 1897 Quarter Eagles are known. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1321, for \$65, the "high" price, once again, reflecting the superb quality of this specimen.

GEM PROOF 1898 QUARTER EAGLE



1860. 1898, Gem Proof. 165 Proofs minted. A superb specimen in all respects, very nearly "as struck" although there is a slight mint made defect on the rim to the right of the last 8 in the date. This specimen is fully struck with a very attractive cameo appearance resulting from the contrast of the lightly frosted head and eagle with the deep mirror fields. The color is a beautiful light to medium coppery gold with a slight iridescent haze, a hallmark of the



coin's originality. Outstanding in all respects with great eye appeal. From this year through to the end of the Liberty Head Quarter Eagle series in 1907, the Proofs are considerably less rare than any of the previous issues. Of this date, and all the issues that follow, at least 80-100 Proofs exist, in some cases even more, and many of them are of high quality. Purchased from James Kelly in April 1956 for \$54.

NEARLY FLAWLESS GEM PROOF 1899 QUARTER EAGLE





1861. 1899, Gem Proof. 150 Proofs minted. Another superb Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagle that is virtually flawless, just like the 1896, 1897, and 1898 offered in the preceding lots. This coin is fully struck with deep yellow gold color, a very light haze, and a lovely cameo effect

with the head of Liberty and eagle contrasting nicely with the deep mirror fields. A partial wire rim is evident on both sides. Similar in rarity to the 1898 with approximately 80-100 Proofs known. Purchased from the Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1323, for \$70.

BORDERLINE GEM PROOF 1900 QUARTER EAGLE



1862. 1900, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 205 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a square edge, high wire rim, and brilliant deep mirror fields. The color is a rich medium yellow gold and the surfaces are covered with a very slight haze which hides the relatively few light hairlines. There is distinct repunching at the base of the 1 in the date, lighter repunching at the bottom of the 9. This



is a Proof-only variety and all Proofs of 1900 are this variety. This is one of the most common Proofs of the type; at least 100 Proofs are known, possibly more. This coin was purchased by JJP from the 1952 ANA sale conducted by New Netherlands Coin Co. The coin appeared as Lot 1502 and realized \$24.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1901 QUARTER EAGLE



1863. 1901, Very Choice Proof. 223 Proofs minted. This Proof has a much heavier film on the surfaces than any of the preceding. Under the cloudy haze, the surfaces are very clean with only a few light hairlines between the chin and the 2nd star as well as some light hairlines around the denomination and above the eagle's head on the reverse. The color is an attractive medium coppery gold and the coin is very sharply struck with a partial wire rim. There is some weakness at the bases of the numerals of the date and a little crumbling at some of the denticles.



This is not unusual on Proofs of this date or on some of the Proof Quarter Eagle issues that follow. Very similar in overall rarity to the 1900 with more than 100 Proofs still accounted for out of the original mintage of 223 pieces. Like the 1900, this coin was purchased by JJP at the 1952 ANA sale, Lot 1503, for \$24. Both of these coins, as well as the 1903 and 1906 which were also obtained from the 1952 ANA sale, were previously in the collection of the famous Maryland coin dealer, John Zug.

PROOF 1902 QUARTER EAGLE





1864. 1902, Proof. 193 Proofs minted. Moderate hairlines on both sides under a light cloudy haze. There is a large indentation across the point of the bust and a number of other light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. The coin has attractive light coppery gold color. From a quality standpoint, this is one of the lowest grade Proof Quarter Eagles in the John Jay Pittman Collection. As a date, the 1902 is similar in overall rarity in Proof to the 1900 and 1901; 100 or more Proofs are known. Acquired by JJP in a private transaction with Numismatic Gallery in June 1948 for \$14.

Despite the fact that this is one of the most common Proof Quarter Eagles, a date of which a number of Gems certainly were available to JJP during his collecting lifetime, JJP made no attempt to upgrade this specimen that he purchased in 1948. Upgrading was not really JJP's style. Although he tried to be careful and get a respectable specimen when he made his initial purchase, once he had a coin that he was reasonably happy with he was much more interested in the acquisition of new items that he did not have at all than he was in upgrading coins that he already owned.

CHOICE PROOF 1903 QUARTER EAGLE



1865. 1903, Choice Proof. 197 Proofs minted. A very brilliant specimen struck in medium yellow gold. There is a long, faint diagonal hairline across Liberty's face and neck and a few others on the face and in the fields. There are also several tiny marks above the eagle's head. The surfaces are slightly cloudy, but less so than some other Proof Quarter Eagles in the collection. The reverse is essentially Gem quality and the coin is downgraded to Choice only because of the obverse hairlines. At least 100 Proofs of the date are known. This is another Proof that was purchased by JJP from the 1952 ANA sale conducted by New Netherlands Coin Co.; it appeared as Lot 1505 and realized \$22.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1904 QUARTER EAGLE



1866. 1904, Very Choice Proof. 170 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge, a broad inner border, and deep mirror fields. The surfaces are a light to medium coppery gold color and are covered with a very slight natural haze. Heavy die polish lines are evident on the right side of Liberty's face by the eye and ear. A faint hairline runs from the denticles between stars 2 and 3 to the upper lip; another even fainter one runs horizontally above Liberty's head. There is a trace of repunching on the base of the 4 and a die rust pit on the upright of the 4. This is a Proof-only variety and all Proof 1904 Quarter Eagles are this same variety. This is perhaps the rarest Proof Quarter Eagle from 1900-1907; it is similar in rarity to the 1898 and 1899 with only an estimated 80-100 examples known. Purchased from the Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1328, for \$45.

PROOF 1905 QUARTER EAGLE





1867. 1905, Proof. 144 Proofs minted. Moderate hairlines on the obverse, both in the fields and across the face. The reverse is Choice Proof or finer. Attractive medium gold color with a slight copper tint. Very sharply struck with a square edge. There is a light haze on the coin, especially on the reverse. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery, 6/48, for \$14.

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1906 QUARTER EAGLE



1868. 1906, Gem Proof. 160 Proofs minted. This coin is a real beauty with a light filmy haze, beautiful coppery gold color, a full strike, and brilliant mirror surfaces. There are a few planchet lines (not hairlines) in the fields which were present when the coin was struck and were not eliminated by the minting process. A small lint mark lies between O and F of OF. At least 100 Proofs survive, perhaps even a few more, some of them extremely high quality like this one. In fact, of all Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagles, the 1906 is the one that most consistently appears in superb condition. JJP purchased this coin from the 1952 ANA sale conducted by New Netherlands Coin Co., Lot 1508, for \$24.

Mail Bids

Mail bids should be sent in time to be received at the office of David Akers Numismatics, Inc. in Stuart, Florida, no later than Thursday, May 14, 1998. Late bids should be sent directly to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, in care of David W. Akers.

BORDERLINE GEM PROOF 1907 QUARTER EAGLE



- 1869. 1907, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem class. 154
 Proofs minted. Superb medium copper and yellow
 gold color. A very slight cloudy haze is on the reverse,
 an even lighter haze on the obverse. There are only a
 few light scattered hairlines including one by the 13th
 star and another on the jaw. Very sharply struck with
 brilliant mirror fields and a sharp square edge. Similar
 in mintage to the 1906, but seemingly just a little more
 rare. Still, at least 80, possibly as many as 100 pieces,
 have survived, many of them of very high quality.
 Only a little less rare than the 1904; the 1907 is the second rarest Proof Quarter Eagle from 1900-1907.
 Purchased on 7/16/46 from C.E. Higgy for \$22.50.
- 1870. 1907, Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck with frosty, lustrous surfaces and attractive yellow gold color. Purchased from Mac Harding, price and date of transaction unknown.





1871. 1908, Indian Head Type. Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck for the issue with very good luster, medium gold color and only a few light hairlines and handling marks. A very common date, but this specimen is flashy and attractive.

- 1872. **1909, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Hazy medium orange gold color, some light hairlines, not many marks.
- 1873. **1910, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned and hairlined. Irregular light orange gold color.
- 1874. 1911, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous with medium orange gold color and a few light hairlines and handling marks.

RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1911-D QUARTER EAGLE



1875. 1911-D, Choice Uncirculated. A beautiful example of this rare issue with a very sharp strike and the characteristic partial wire rim on the obverse. Very lustrous for a 1911-D Quarter Eagle with attractive light to medium yellow gold color that has a natural orange tint. The mintmark is very bold and well defined. There is a slight break in the luster on the cheek and a few minor hairlines and marks, but nothing worthy of special mention. This is the key issue of the series; only 55,600 pieces were minted. Purchased 11/10/45 from Walter Webb for \$7.50, just three times face value.

- 1876. **1912, Almost Uncirculated.** Planchet defect in the field between the headdress and RT of LIBERTY. Dull, frosty, light orange gold color.
- 1877. **1914, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned and burnished, probably held in a pressure mount and used as jewelry.
- 1878. **1914-D, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned and bright, weak mintmark. Light, irregular coppery gold color.
- 1879. **1915, Almost Uncirculated.** Light orange gold color, a bit dull, nick on the jaw. JJP paid \$4 for this coin, date of purchase and seller unknown.

- 1880. 1925-D, Choice Uncirculated. Well struck with a sharp mintmark and full mint luster. Scrape at P of PLURIBUS with some copper showing through, possibly "as made" since the letter P is not damaged, but more likely a test mark. The obverse of the coin is very nice, nearly in the Gem class. The coin has attractive light to medium yellow and greenish gold color. There is a slight break in the luster on the cheek as usual.
- 1881. 1926, Uncirculated. Sharply struck with full original mint brilliance. There is a heavy abrasion on the eagle's wing and some hairlines in front of the face of the Indian. Light vellow gold color.
- 1882. 1927, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous with attractive light orange gold color. Light to moderate hairlines on both sides.

- 1883. 1928, Almost Uncirculated. Bright yellow gold. Light abrasions on the obverse, heavier ones on the reverse. Undoubtedly in a pressure mount and used as jewelry at one time.
- 1884. 1929, Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous with nice original color, a light to medium yellow gold. Weak around the edges and, like the preceding, probably in a pressure mount and used as jewelry.
- 1885. Complete set of Indian Head Quarter Eagles from 1908-1929, including the rare 1911-D. The 1911-D is cleaned and grades Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated with a weak mintmark and coppery gold color. The other coins in the set range in grade from Very Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Most have been cleaned with some undoubtedly having been in pressure mounts and used as jewelry. Not a particularly nice set overall, but fortunately the rare 1911-D is one of the nicest coins in the set. 15 pieces.

U.S. THREE DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1854 \$3 GOLD





1886. 1854, Proof. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and attractive medium vellow gold color. Numerous hairlines on the obverse, fewer on the reverse. There is a long scratch in the left obverse field from I in UNITED to the tip of the bust. There are also some minor handling marks in the fields. A copper toning spot is visible at the F in OF. There is evidence of very minor damage (not solder) in the milling above the first T in STATES. There is also a small planchet depression to the right of Liberty's eye. Overall, the reverse is much nicer than the obverse and grades close to the Choice level. Purchased by JJP from Paramount International Coin Corp.'s 1967 Grand Central sale, Lot 796, for \$350.

Approximately 15-20 1854 Three Dollar Gold pieces were struck in Proof to mark the first year of issue of this new, unusual, and ultimately unnecessary denomination. We know that 15 Proofs were sent to the Secretary of the Treasury by Mint Director Snowden on April 28, 1854, and it is likely that a few others were struck for inclusion in presentation sets. Today, only an estimated 7-10 Proofs can be accounted for, nearly all of which are relatively low quality. This would seem to indicate that most of the Proofs eventually must have ended up in the hands of non-numismatic people who did not know how to care for

them properly. At the present time, I can account for only the following nine specimens, several of which may be duplications. However, there also have been a few other auction listings that may represent one or more additional examples.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Paramount 11/67: 796.
- 3. John Work Garrett: 417.
- 4. Harry W. Bass, Jr.
- 5. Paramount 11/77: 499; The Cree family from North Carolina.
- 6. Ed Trompeter: 96; Louis Eliasberg: 272; John H. Clapp; John S. Jenks: 5782
- 7. Dr. Herbert Ketterman; Lester Merkin 3/68: 400.
- 8. Auction '88 (Superior): 344.
- 9. Buddy Ebsen: 2393; Miguel Munoz: 1688.

In addition to the foregoing, I also recall a specimen in Mike Brownlee's inventory at one time that appeared to be a Proof which was circulated to EF. Since I am not at all certain of its Proof status, however, I have not included it in the above listing. If it is a true (but circulated) Proof, it would be a 10th specimen. It is also possible that No. 8 or No. 9 on the above list duplicates either No. 5 or No. 7. If either or both of these are duplications, the number of known Proof 1854 Three Dollar Gold pieces may be only 7 or 8.

RARE 1854-D \$3 GOLD



1887. 1854-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. This is a very nice coin for the grade with attractive light to medium orange and greenish-gold color, and only light hairlines and handling marks in the fields and on the devices. The only mark worth noting is a small dig in the field below the hair to the right of the base of the second A in AMERICA. The milling is weak, as it invariably is on this issue, and the denticles are also weak and indistinct in places. The weak milling and denticles are characteristic of this issue and this specimen actually is more sharp in those areas than most specimens I have seen. Purchased from William Ulrich, 1/15/60, for \$485.

This issue is one of the most popular and desirable of all U.S. Three Dollar Gold pieces due partly to its rarity and low mintage of only 1,121 pieces, but mostly to its status as the only issue of this denomination struck at the Dahlonega Mint. Although this is definitely a rare issue, there are more specimens around than many people realize indicating a higher than average survival rate of this denomination compared to, for example, the D Mint Quarter Eagles of this era. Few 1854-D Three Dollar Gold pieces have survived in high grade, however, and the average specimen is only Very Fine to Extremely Fine, like this one. Actually, this piece is considerably more attractive than the typically seen example and, with the exception of the dig below the hair, it is a "gem" for the grade. In my opinion, the number of surviving specimens of this issue is probably somewhere on the order of 100 pieces, give or take a few. This number is consistent with Doug Winters' estimate in his excellent book on Dahlonega Mint gold coins of 85-95 pieces known.





1888. 1854-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous and very sharply struck with attractive medium greenishgold color. Weak letters in the obverse legend as well as the denomination; the date is also weak. The denticles at the left side of the reverse are very thin with considerable space between them. All of these characteristics just described are a function of considerable die lapping which is also evident in the bows of the ribbon which are completely detached. Numerous planchet irregularities are noted by the bottom of the hair near the second A in AMERICA as well as in the center of the reverse around DOLLARS and the date. Extensive die cracks run through the mintmark and the ends of the ribbon. Although not an especially rare date, the 1854-O is generally available only in the lower circulated grades from Very Fine to Extremely Fine. This specimen is well above average in terms of both its technical quality and its overall eye appeal. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956 as Lot 1369 for \$35.

VERY RARE HIGH GRADE 1855-S \$3 GOLD



1889. **1855-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** This 1855-S \$3 Gold piece is one of the finest examples of this very rare issue in existence; most of the known specimens grade only Very Fine or less with just an occasional example reaching as high as the Extremely Fine grade level. This piece is sharply struck with beautiful medium orange gold color and very good luster. There are relatively few, and certainly very light, hairlines and contact

continued top of next page

1889 continued

marks in the fields. Die clashing is evident within the wreath and at the top of the mintmark. Raised die lumps are present in the obverse field between F in OF and A in AMERICA. These are diagnostic of all genuine 1855-S Three Dollar Gold pieces, even the unique Proof. The surfaces are semi-prooflike and have many die striations from die polishing. Excellent overall appearance and eye appeal. JJP purchased this coin early in his collecting career from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Fred H. Olson Collection, 11/7/44, Lot 1941, for \$27.50. Mehl described this coin as, "Uncirculated. Not a rarity, but in this remarkable condition I consider it as extremely rare and valuable."

In my experience, the 1855-S is even more rare than the much more popular 1854-D. Only 6,600 examples of this issue were minted, and it certainly must have been the case that all, or nearly all, of the mintage was placed into circulation since well worn specimens are the norm. In addition to the aforementioned Proof, there is one very high auality mint state piece now in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, a coin that was formerly in the Krug Collection. The only other strictly mint state example with which I am familiar is a coin that I purchased from Mid-American's 1986 GNA sale as Lot 1910. This is undoubtedly the coin now in a PCGS MS-62 holder. The Harold S. Bareford specimen is another high grade (for the issue) example, a very attractive "slider" that last appeared in the Michael Keston Collection sale in January 1996. These are the three finest examples of the 1855-S Three Dollar Gold piece known to me, and so this Pittman specimen may well be the fourth finest known. At the very least, it is in the Condition Census for the issue.

IMPAIRED PROOF 1856 \$3 GOLD



1890. 1856, Proof, impaired. The original Proof surface is still clearly evident, but there is a considerable amount of friction, hairlines, and minor handling marks in the fields. Very sharply struck. Light yellow gold color with a slight copper tint. On the reverse, large DOLLARS (as on the Three Dollar issues from 1855-1889) is punched over small DOLLARS (which appeared only on the issues of 1854). This is a Proof-only variety and all Proof 1856 Three Dollar Gold pieces are this same variety. Although the quality is not high, this piece is still very desirable due to its great rarity; the 1856 is actually more rare in Proof than the 1854 and only an estimated 6-8 examples are known. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's famous Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 1374, for \$40.





- 1891. **1856-S, Very Fine.** Small S. The mintmark is more or less centered between the bow knot and the denticles and is tipped slightly left. It is the same size as the S mintmark on the 1860-S. This is a much more rare variety than the usually seen Medium S variety. This specimen, although not particularly high grade, is still quite attractive and has lustrous coppery gold color and only light to moderate hairlines and handling marks, including one heavy abrasion just outside the lower left side of the wreath. Purchased from a Bullowa sale, 2/22/58, Lot 100, for \$50.
- 1892. **1857**, Extremely Fine. Pale coppery gold color; the surfaces are somewhat dull with moderate hairlines on both sides. Clash marks are visible on both the obverse and reverse, especially within the wreath. Purchased from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1375, for \$31.





1893. 1857-S, Very Fine. Light orange gold color, weakly impressed date. Numerous light to moderate contact marks and hairlines. Very scarce in all grades with this specimen typical of the quality generally available. Note: The mintmark on the 1857-S is large, the same as on the 1855-S and on one very rare variety of 1856-S. The date on this issue (and the 1857-P as well) is very large, much larger than the dates seen on other Three Dollar Gold pieces. This is another coin JJP purchased from the Melish sale in 1956, Lot 1377, for \$32.





1894. 1860-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Very lustrous with some prooflike surface still visible. Sharply struck, light to medium yellow gold color. There are some light hairlines and handling marks on both sides that are consistent with the grade, and there are also some small digs within the reverse wreath to the left of the date and the 3 in the denomination. Like the 1857-S to which it is very similar in overall rarity, the 1860-S is very scarce in any grade and seldom seen above EF. This piece was purchased from Abe Kosoff, 12/56, for \$45.

1895. **1861, Extremely Fine.** A lustrous, semi-prooflike specimen with attractive medium orange gold color. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery in 1950 for \$24.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1867 \$3 GOLD



1896. 1867, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 50 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge, deep mirror fields and lightly frosted devices which give the coin a nice cameo appearance. The color is an attractive light coppery gold. The obverse has moderate hairlines, the reverse much lighter ones. There is a light scratch near the denticles below the tip of the bust. There are also



several small lint marks and planchet chips on the face and neck, all "as made". This is a flashy and attractive specimen despite the minor problems. Similar in rarity to the Gold Dollar and Quarter Eagle of the same date; it is estimated that approximately 14-17 Proofs are known of this issue. Purchased by JJP at the 1956 ANA convention from Sol Kaplan for \$200.

VERY RARE PROOF 1869 \$3 GOLD



1897. **1869, Proof.** 25 Proofs minted. The proof surfaces are somewhat dull due to the manner is which the coin was stored for many years. The color is a medium, but slightly irregular, coppery gold. A long scratch runs from the rim to the truncation of the neck. There is also a sizable rim nick on the obverse between OF and AMERICA. The fields have light scattered hairlines. Doubling is evident all along the profile and the back of the headdress. This is a very rare date in Proof, slightly more so than the



1867; only 12-15 specimens are thought to exist. Purchased from a Mr. Hutter in May 1954 along with a Proof 1869 Gold Dollar and Proof 1869 Quarter Eagle. JJP paid \$235 for the three pieces but did not assign a cost to each individual coin. However, based on the low values of Proof Gold Dollars and Quarter Eagles in 1954, most of the \$235 cost (\$150-\$175) would have been applied to this Three Dollar Gold piece.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1872 \$3 GOLD



1898. 1872, Choice Proof. 30 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge and deep mirror fields. Attractive light coppery gold color. There is a dark copper/carbon spot in the headdress between the third and fourth feathers near the top; another smaller one is above the second S in STATES on the rim. Light, scattered hairlines are present on both sides, but none is really serious. In the



reverse wreath, around and above the word DOLLARS, are a number of fairly prominent planchet chips "as made". There is also a lint mark extending into the field from the bottom of the left foot of R. Very rare and seldom available; only an estimated 12-15 Proofs of this date are known. Purchased from the New Netherlands 51st sale, 6/20/58, Lot 956, for \$165.

1899. 1874, Extremely Fine. Light greenish-gold color. Semiprooflike fields with quite a few light hairlines and minor contact marks.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1876 \$3 GOLD



1900. **1876, Choice Proof,** possibly even finer. 45 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a square edge, wire rim and deep mirror fields. The color is a rich medium yellow gold. The surfaces of the coin are quite clean with only a few light, widely scattered hairlines, most of which are in the obverse field and within the reverse wreath. The face of Liberty is very clean with only a faint hairline or two. The overall appearance and eye appeal of this specimen are excellent and it is distinctly finer than the 1867 and 1869 Proofs offered earlier; it is also somewhat superior to the 1872. Purchased as part of a partial original 1876



gold set consisting of the Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Three Dollar Gold piece and Half Eagle on 8/25/47 from B.A. Seaby of London, England, for \$500.

The 1876 is one of the most famous of all Three Dollar Gold pieces. It was struck only in Proof for inclusion in the Proof sets of that year and, since business strikes are not available, Proofs of this issue have achieved a level of both fame and value that exceed those of other issues that are actually more rare. Of the 45 originally minted, approximately 25-30 still exist, although a number of those are beset with various impairments. This specimen is not the finest 1876 Three Dollar Gold piece in existence, but it is an above average and very attractive example.

MINT STATE 1878 \$3 GOLD





1901. **1878**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Very lustrous and sharply struck with partially prooflike fields (the mirror surface is especially evident on the reverse) and beautiful light orange gold color. This is a very flashy specimen with only a few minor hairlines and contact

marks. The 1878 is by far the most common issue of the series and the only date other than the 1854 that legitimately can be termed "common" in mint state. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Anniversary sale (featuring the Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 225, for \$21.

1902. **1878**, **Almost Uncirculated**. Light coppery gold color. Frosty and sharply struck with light to moderate hairlines and contact marks as well as one long scratch on the chin.

RARE BORDERLINE GEM PROOF 1883 \$3 GOLD





1903. 1883, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category.
89 Proofs minted. A beautiful, original coin with a full strike, a sharp square edge, and deep mirror fields that have just a slight natural filmy haze. Under the haze, the surfaces are a beautiful medium coppery gold color and have only a few very light hairlines; Liberty's face, in particular, is very clean. Identifiable by a tiny copper

toning spot at the bottom serif of the E in UNITED. Rare, although not quite as much so as the Proof Quarter Eagle of the same date offered earlier in this sale. Approximately 35-40 Proof 1883 Three Dollar Gold pieces are thought to exist, most fairly nice, but few distinctly finer than this one. Purchased by JJP from a French's sale, 4/29/60, Lot 1003, for \$175.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1888 \$3 GOLD



1904. **1888, Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck and fully prooflike. Rich yellow gold color. Light to moderate hairlines on the obverse, only a few hairlines on the reverse. Excellent overall eye appeal despite the hairlines. Purchased by JJP as a Proof, but this is a business strike rather than a Proof. The rims are very rounded, not square, and there are areas of mint frost in the fields. Like the prooflike Gold Dollars of 1888 (cf. Pittman:



925), prooflike 1888 Three Dollar Gold pieces can be extremely deceptive. But by comparing this coin with a true Proof, like the 1883 or 1889, especially by examining the edges (the 1883 and 1889 have square edges and appear much "thicker" than this 1888 due to the extra striking pressure), one will easily see the difference. Purchased as a Proof at the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of 2/18/61, Lot 1145, for \$500.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1889 \$3 GOLD



1905. 1889, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 129 Proofs minted. Sharply struck and fully brilliant with a square edge and deep mirror fields that have a trace of an orange peel surface. The color is a very rich medium yellow gold. There is a copper/carbon spot on the left side of the wreath about even with the base of the 3. A few light obverse hairlines are present, but the reverse is very clean and easily in the Gem category. There is one bright hairline on the neck of Liberty, but the face is clean. This is a very flashy and attractive Proof Three Dollar gold piece, comparable in quality to the 1883; they are the two highest quality Proof Three Dollar Gold



pieces in the John Jay Pittman Collection. This issue is more rare than its mintage would indicate and it is possible that some of the Proof Three Dollar Gold pieces minted in 1889 were melted due to the lack of demand and the discontinuation of the denomination. The 1889 is much more rare than the 1888 (not present in Proof in the Pittman Collection), which is the most common Proof of the denomination, and it is also somewhat more rare than the Proof issues from 1883-1887. JJP purchased this at the same sale as he did the 1888 in the preceding lot, namely, the Abner Kreisberg-Hans Schulman sale of 2/18/61, this as Lot 1148 for \$335.

U.S. HALF EAGLES



EXCEEDINGLY RARE GEM PROOF 1835 HALF EAGLE

One Of Only Three Specimens Known





1906. 1835, Gem Proof. This is the second Gem Proof 1835 Half Eagle in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Although it is not quite as superb as the specimen that was sold in the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part One, in October 1997, it is still a solid Gem by the strictest grading standards and is comparable in quality to the Proof 1836 Half Eagle that was also sold in Part One. This coin is fully struck with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and a lightly frosted head and eagle which give the coin an attractive cameo appearance. The color is a superb, rich medium yellow gold and, overall, the coin is very flashy with fabulous eye appeal. There are some very light striations in the fields from die polishing and there are two tiny spurs or die scratches extending from the tip of the eagle's right wing. There are some die scratches under the date that run in the direction of the 13th star, and there is also a long die scratch that runs from the upper left serif of the 1 toward the tip of the bust. The 7th star shows signs of minor recutting. All of these characteristics were also present on the specimen in Pittman I. There is a tiny lint mark between the hair and the 10th star. The fields have a few light, widely scattered hairlines and there are also a few even lighter ones on Liberty's chin. There is also a long hairline running from the field to the left of the first S in STATES toward the area below the eagle's beak. Die polishing lines are evident on Liberty's neck and near her ear. Like the three early Proof Half Eagles in Pittman I (the 1833, 1835 and 1836), the Proof 1835 Half Eagle offered here is remarkable, not only for its extreme rarity, but also for its amazingly superb quality. The vast majority of known Proof Half Eagles struck 50-70 years later do not match the quality of this coin!

JJP purchased this Proof 1835 Half Eagle from the 1954 Farouk sale as part of Lot 248. The lot also included the 1836 Proof in Pittman I together with business strike Half Eagles of 1836, 1837, 1838, 1838-C and 1838-D, all of which appeared in the first Pittman sale. For this lot of

seven coins, JJP paid 160 Egyptian Pounds which was then equivalent to approximately \$460 U.S. To this winning bid was added the standard 5% Government tax for a total of \$483 for the lot. This lot was not only one of JJP's best purchases at the Farouk sale (and that is really saying something since he purchased so many outstanding lots at that sale), it was also one of the greatest purchases of his entire career. Prior to being sold to King Farouk in the mid-1940's, this Proof Half Eagle was in the famous Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

John McCloskey, who has done extensive research on the Classic Head Half Eagle varieties, has informed me that there are eight different varieties of the 1835 Half Eagle; he also notes that the variety represented by this Proof is the rarest of the eight varieties. Furthermore, this variety is one of the rarest of the thirty-three varieties in the entire Classic Head Half Eagle series and Mr. McCloskey notes that even the most advanced collections with which he is familiar are missing this variety in any condition. Not only is the variety a great rarity in Proof with only three specimens known, it is also extremely rare in business strike format with just a few examples known, the finest grading Almost Uncirculated. This variety has a number of distinguishing characteristics as follows: a) the lowest leaf in the top pair of leaves on the olive branch nearly touches the left side of the U in UNITED; b) the eagle has no tongue; c) there is no berry on the olive branch; d) the arrowheads are small, the lowest well away from the 2nd A in AMERICA; e) the letters in LIBERTY on the obverse headband are recut with B much lower on the band than I; f) the 1 in the date is large and the 8 in the date is a block 8; and g) the leaves on the olive branch are slender and delicate.

Just three Proof 1835 Half Eagles are known, all of them this same variety, each of them a Gem.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Farouk: 248; Col. E.H.R. Green.
- 3. The "Gold Rush" Collection; Pittman I: 937; "Memorable": 334; "World's Greatest Collection": 385; Waldo Newcomer; William H. Woodin; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1045. Graded Proof-67 by PCGS.

Note: The specimen in the 1956 Melish sale, Lot 1969, there described as an "Impaired Proof", was actually a prooflike business strike according to JIP and not a true Proof.

U.S. EAGLES

VERY RARE AND CHOICE 1800 EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen





1907. 1800, Very Choice Uncirculated. A magnificent coin, one of the finest examples known of this rare and underrated date, possibly even the finest. The coin is very sharply struck and well centered with outstanding luster, partially prooflike fields, and superb medium copper and orange gold color with areas of violet toning. The denticles are weak or missing in places on the reverse; they are also weak at places on the obverse, especially where there are light to moderate adjustment marks at the rim above stars 4-8 and stars 10-13. A die break runs through the tops of the letters of IBERTY. The fields are very clean, especially on the reverse which is virtually Gem quality. The obverse fields have only a few light hairlines and minor marks; there are also a couple of very faint marks and scuffs on Liberty's cheek. The prooflike surface is

much more evident on the obverse than it is on the reverse. In terms of its overall eye appeal, this coin is superb and, if not the absolute finest known, it is certainly one of the top two or three known 1800 Eagles. JJP purchased this coin for \$102.50 from Maurice Storck who had obtained the coin at the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 187.

The 1800 Eagle is one of the most underrated of the early U.S. Eagles. Only 5,999 pieces were struck and nearly all known specimens grade from Very Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Mint state specimens are rare and examples in Choice Uncirculated or finer condition are very rare. As a date, the 1800 is much more difficult to find than the 1797 Heraldic Eagle, 1799, 1801 or 1803. It is also considerably more difficult to locate than the first year of issue of the denomination, the 1795.



1908. **1801, Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and well centered with attractive medium greenish-yellow gold color, darker shades of which are in and around the stars, date and legend. Clash marks are seen in Liberty's cap. There is a deep abrasion in front of the chin and mouth and quite a



few other light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. A little on the dull side from storage, but still with some luster in the fields. Purchased from a French's sale, 4/29/60, Lot 806, for \$185.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1804 EAGLE



1909. **1804**, **Choice Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck and perfectly centered with superb luster, partially prooflike fields, and rich medium yellow gold color. The face of Liberty (nose, mouth and chin), although not sharp, is certainly more well defined than on most known examples of this issue. There are a few light hairlines and handling marks in the fields, including one in the field by the chin and another by the 12th star. There are die scratches near the denticles below and to the right of the date which shows signs of double punching on the 8 (upper left loop) and 0 (inside right curve). There is a fine die break through UNITED on the reverse and another that runs through the bases of the numerals 180 of the date to the first two stars at the left. A tiny patch of die rust is seen at the 13th star. There are two lint marks



near the denticles by the 8th star. This is a very flashy example of this rare issue and it is certainly one of the finest known specimens. The only other example of comparable quality that I have seen is the Mack Pogue coin which has been conservatively graded MS-63 by NGC. Purchased 11/6/48 from the New Netherlands 26th sale, Lot 14, for \$127.50, there described as a "Superb gem with semi-proof surface".

The 1804 Eagle is even more rare than the 1800 and it is also far more rare than such issues as 1795, 1797 Heraldic Eagle, 1799, 1801 and 1803. It is also slightly more rare than the 1796. It is not, however, quite as rare as the 1797 Small Eagle or the two varieties of 1798. Only 3,757 pieces were struck and it is doubtful if more than 50-60 pieces still exist in all grades, most of which grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine.



EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1838 EAGLE

One Of Only Three Specimens Known





1910. 1838, Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. This is an incredible coin, one of the greatest and most important rarities in the entire John Jay Pittman Collection. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields, a broad border, sharp square edge, and superb medium yellow gold color highlighted with some minor copper toning spots. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, including one horizontal one below the date, as well as some die polishing lines and planchet lines that were not completely eliminated by the minting process. On the reverse, there is a long hairline above the eagle, beginning at the left side of the A in STATES, then running diagonally down to the head of the eagle, along the neck to the wing, and then out below the wing toward the E in AMERICA. There is a lint mark in the field below the second S in STATES and several small lint marks in the left obverse field. The date is repunched with the doubling very clear on the 18; it is less obvious, but still clearly visible on the 3 and the second 8. This is a superb looking coin, one whose eye appeal and general appearance substantially exceed its technical quality. I do not think that there is any other Proof gold coin in all of U.S. numismatics that has the same visual impact as the Proof Eagles of 1838 and 1839. The beauty and balance of this two-year-only design are simply stunning in the Proof format. JJP purchased this coin as part of a large lot from the Farouk sale, Lot 188, for which he paid 195 Egyptian Pounds, which was equivalent in U.S. dollars to approximately \$562. After adding the 5% Government tax, JJP paid roughly \$590 for the lot which also contained the coins that appear in the next three lots of this sale.

JJP considered this coin to be the premier coin in his incomparable collection of U.S. Proof gold coins. After he had seen the Cardinal Spellman specimen that I purchased in 1973, he asked me to bring it again to the next coin show so that he could compare his coin (this specimen) to the Spellman example. It was quite a thrill for both of us to be able to look at two of the three known Proof 1838 Eagles at the same time. Shortly thereafter, I examined the Proof 1838 Eagle in the Smithsonian Institution so I had the privilege of seeing all three known Proofs in the span of about one month, an experience I will never forget. There are also three known Proofs of the 1839 Eagle of the same type. This means there are only six examples of the type known in Proof, and at least two of those specimens, possibly even three, will never again be available to collectors. The three known Proof 1838 Eagles are as follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution. Scratches on reverse.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Farouk: 188; "J.F. Bell" (Jake Shapiro): 601; Col. E.H.R. Green; Waldo Newcomer; William H. Woodin: 1201; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1082. Choice Proof or finer.
- 3. Private collector; Pacific Rarities; Jay Miller and Rick Sear; Sixten Erling; Davies-Niewoehner: 612; Fred Davies; Paramount International Coin Corp.; Stanley Kesselman; Francis Cardinal Spellman; Virgil Brand; Lyman Low. Gem Proof, certified as Proof-65 by PCGS.

The three known Proof 1839 Eagles are as follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Louis Eliasberg: 1662; John H. Clapp; John S. Jenks: 5735; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1097.
- 3. Private collector; New England Rare Coin Galleries (1981).
 Part of a three piece gold Proof set (\$2 1/2, \$5 and \$10)
 which was located in Eastern Europe by Mark Emory.



1911. **1839, Type of 1838. Extremely Fine.** Large letters reverse. Very sharply struck with medium coppery gold color, the heaviest copper shades around the stars, legend, date and devices. Light to moderate hairlines and handling marks in



the fields. Just a trace of the original prooflike surface still shows. Purchased as one of the four coins in Lot 188 from the 1954 Farouk sale, a lot for which JJP paid a total of \$590. Scarce and popular as a two-year-only type coin.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1839 TYPE '40 EAGLE



1912. 1839, Type of 1840. Choice Uncirculated. Small letters on the reverse. This is another of the truly great coins in the Pittman Collection, acquired from the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 188 which included the Proof 1838 Eagle offered earlier in this sale as Lot 1910. This is one of the three finest known specimens of the issue (see list below), and these three examples are the only ones known in mint state. This particular coin is a beauty in all respects. It is very sharply struck with full original mint luster and considerable prooflike surfaces around the head of Liberty and the eagle. A prominent die break is seen in the obverse stars above Liberty's head. The coin is a superb medium yellow gold color, and there are only a few very light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. All of the numerals of the date are repunched and there are diagonal die file marks below the date at the denticles. Purchased as part of a four coin lot from the Farouk sale in 1954, Lot 188, for \$590. Since that price was for the entire lot, and the lot included the exceedingly rare Proof 1838 Eagle, very little of the \$590 cost would have been apportioned to this coin, certainly \$100 or less.



Historically, this issue has been referred to as the 1839 Small Letters variety, whereas the 1839 Eagle in the preceding lot has been referred to as the Large Letters variety. As I stated in my book on U.S. Eagles in 1980, this nomenclature is very misleading since it gives the impression that these two issues have the same design and differ only in the size of the letters on the reverse. Obviously, this is clearly inaccurate and the coins are actually different types and not just different varieties of the same type. This 1839 Type of 1840 issue is one of the greatest rarities among all Liberty Head Eagles, especially in high grade. It is also far more rare than the 1839 Type of 1838 or even the 1838 which have traditionally been more highly prized due to their type coin status. Of the relatively few examples of this issue that are known (probably no more than 40-50 pieces total, if that many), almost all are well circulated and typically grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine. In AU condition, the 1839 Type of 1840 Eagle is very rare and mint state examples are exceedingly rare with only the following three specimens known.

- 1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Farouk: 188; William H. Woodin: 1202.
- 2. Charles Jay: 316.
- 3. 1976 ANA sale (Stack's): 3057.

I have seen several other examples called Uncirculated in the past, but I did not consider any of them strictly Uncirculated. They were certainly not of the same caliber as the three specimens listed here, all of which are at least Choice Uncirculated quality.





1913. **1840, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with partially prooflike surfaces and medium coppery gold color. There is a carbon spot on the reverse rim above M in AMERICA. This is a scarce issue in this grade and a rare one in Almost Uncirculated condition. Purchased from the Farouk sale in 1954 as one of the four coins in Lot 188. The entire lot realized \$590 with most of that price based on the Proof 1838 Eagle.





1914. **1841, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Partially prooflike fields, especially on the reverse around the eagle. Sharply struck, light yellow gold color. Many light hairlines and handling marks in the fields and one prominent abrasion on Liberty's cheek. Purchased from Max Kaplan for \$35, date of purchase unknown.

RARE 1841-O EAGLE





1915. **1841-O**, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Sharply struck and partially prooflike, light to medium yellow gold color. Some light to moderate hairlines, handling marks and abrasions in the fields. This piece is actually somewhat better than most available specimens. A rare issue in all grades; only 2,500 pieces were minted, the lowest mintage figure of any Eagle of this type from 1839-1858. Purchased from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 236, for \$58.

- 1916. **1842, Small Date. Very Fine.** A little dull with moderate hairlines, marks and friction in the fields. Orange gold color with deeper shades in and around the letters and devices. There is a large carbon spot in the field by the 11th star. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery for \$28.50, date of transaction unknown.
- 1917. **1842-O, Very Fine.** Dull medium orange gold color. Considerable hairlines, friction and marks including heavy hairlines on the chin. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, price and date of transaction unknown.
- 1918. **1843-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Dull and cloudy, irregular orange gold color. Moderate handling marks and hairlines. Purchased from Mike Kolman, but no other information is available.





- 1919. **1844-O, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with partially prooflike fields and light yellow gold color. Moderate handling marks and hairlines, the latter mostly on the obverse. This issue is only moderately scarce, but specimens in higher grade than this are very rare. Purchased from Mike Kolman.
- 1920. **1845-O, Very Fine.** Some prooflike surface remains under heavy bagmarks and friction. Prominent repunching on 84 of the date. Light yellow gold color. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 10/6/61, Lot 1540, for \$37.50.
- 1921. **1846-O, Very Fine.** Dull medium yellow gold color. Many marks and hairlines. Double punched mintmark (at the top). Purchased from William Donner for \$35, date of transaction unknown.

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor. Special room rates have been arranged for individuals attending the sale.

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RARE MINT STATE 1847 EAGLE



1922. **1847**, **Uncirculated**. Heavy numerals in the date. Very sharply struck with excellent luster, partially prooflike surfaces, and light to moderate handling marks and abrasions. Brilliant yellow gold color with a rather large area of copper toning in the hair and at RTY of LIBERTY. There is a sharp nick in the reverse field between the eagle's beak and left wing. The reverse has more of a prooflike field than the obverse which has a number of light planchet striations. Although this is one of the



most common No Motto Liberty Head Eagles, most known specimens are in circulated grades and mint state specimens are very scarce, if not rare. Relatively few examples exist as choice as this one and very few exist that are even marginally better. Purchased from Ralph E. Elser, 11/5/49, for \$30. Elser was a county Sheriff in Lima, Ohio, who had obtained a number of gold coins, including this one, from Michael F. Higgy of Columbus, Ohio, in 1942.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1847-O EAGLE



1923. **1847-O**, **Uncirculated**. Double punched 18 of the date with the double punching very clear at the bases of the numerals. This variety is Breen 6881 which he notes is "Very rare" as a variety and "Prohibitively rare Unc." This particular specimen is the discovery coin of the variety and is so noted in Breen's Encyclopedia. It is a frosty, lustrous specimen with attractive medium greenish-gold color. It is a little softly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the lower portion of the eagle, but the stars and rest of the design are very sharp. Die cracks are seen in the stars and through many letters of



the reverse legend. There are also a few tiny hairline die cracks running to the olive leaves, the eagle's right talons and the right wing. As a date, the 1847-O is perhaps the most common No Motto Eagle. However, most of the known specimens are in grades from Very Fine to Almost Uncirculated and mint state examples are rare. Of course, this specimen has the added feature of being the very rare variety with the double punched 18 in the date. Purchased from Stack's Charles W. Neumoyer sale, 5/60, Lot 2578, for \$49.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1848 EAGLE

One Of Only Two Specimens Known, The Other In The Smithsonian Institution



1924. 1848, Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and deep mirror fields. The color is a gorgeous light orange gold and the coin has all of its full original proof brilliance and luster. There are a few light, scattered hairlines in the fields and one tiny mark in the field between stars 12 and 13. The face of Liberty, however, is very clean and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. In particular, this is a better looking, somewhat higher grade specimen than the Proof 1843 and 1844 Eagles in Pittman I as well as the Proof 1846 Eagle in Lot 1712 of this sale. It is also finer than the Proof 1842 and 1848 Half Eagles in the first Pittman sale and is nearly comparable in overall quality to the Proof 1845 Eagle appearing in Lot 1711 as part of the 1845 Proof set.

This is a Proof-only variety, characterized by a small die rust pit on the truncation of the bust just above the first 8 in the date as well as a die rust lump on the top of

the bottom right curve of the second 8. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's famous "Memorable" sale, 3/2/48, Lot 550, for \$165.

Without question, this Proof 1848 Eagle is one of the most important and greatest Proof rarities in the John Jay Pittman Collection. It is my opinion that approximately 10-15 Proof sets were minted in 1848 which included all of the denominations from the Half Cent to the Silver Dollar. Of these 10-15 sets, only four or five also contained the gold coins. Although Walter Breen, in his Proof Encyclopedia, lists several others of highly questionable Proof status, I believe that only two Proof 1848 Eagles are known, the same number as are known of the Proof 1848 Half Eagle that was sold in Pittman I. The two known specimens are as follows.

- 1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; "Memorable": 550; "World's Greatest Collection": 653; F.C.C. Boyd; Waldo Newcomer; William H. Woodin: 1213. In the Woodin catalogue of 1911, the cataloguer, Thomas L. Elder, referred to this Proof as "Unique".

1925. **1848, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck; light to medium greenish-gold and copper color. Moderate marks, hairlines and abrasions throughout the fields and on the devices. Some of the original prooflike surface remains. Purchased from the Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 2400, for \$27.50.





1926. **1848-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Medium coppery gold color, deeper shades around the stars, letters and date. Average strike for the issue, i.e. soft on the hair curls around the face and portions of the eagle. Some prooflike luster remains beneath considerable friction and marks. Purchased from James Kelly for \$34, date of purchase unknown.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1849 EAGLE



1927. **1849**, **Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with outstanding luster, semi-prooflike surfaces and beautiful medium yellow gold color that has an attractive copper tint. There are some light hairlines and minor marks in the fields as well as many light die striations, especially on the reverse, from die polishing. Hairline die breaks are seen in some stars and letters of the legend. There is an abrasion above the eagle's head, but the overall eye appeal of the coin is excellent. This is one of the most common No Motto Liberty Head Eagles and also one of the relatively few issues that is occasionally seen in mint state. Purchased by JJP for \$40, but I can find no indication of the seller or the date of purchase.





- 1928. **1849-O**, **Very Fine.** Medium greenish-gold and copper color. Moderately heavy abrasions throughout the fields, but some original prooflike surface is still evident. This is a very scarce issue even in this low grade. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., price and date of purchase unknown.
- 1929. **1850, Large Date. Very Fine.** Light yellow gold color with pale copper shades around the stars, letters and devices. Fairly heavy bagmarks and abrasions. Purchased from James Kelly's 1965 NASC sale, 2/27/65, Lot 811, for \$36.
- 1930. **1850-O, Very Fine.** Harshly cleaned and brushed, especially on the obverse; now dull and very heavily hairlined. Amazingly, a trace of the original prooflike surface still remains on the reverse. Medium greenish-gold and orange color.
- 1931. **1851, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Probably cleaned, now a lackluster greenish-gold and copper color. The surfaces are heavily abraded.
- 1932. **1851-O, Very Fine.** Cleaned, now hazy and dull. Large planchet defect at the tip of the left wing. Light to moderate contact marks and abrasions. Some original prooflike surface shows through on the reverse. This coin is Breen 6898 with a hollow ring at the top of the second vertical stripe of the shield.
- 1933. **1852, Extremely Fine.** Lustrous with semi-prooflike surfaces under fairly heavy handling marks and abrasions. The coin is a light yellow gold color with traces of copper coloring around the stars, date and legend. Purchased from a French's sale, 11/19/64, Lot 240, for \$33.

Buyer's Charge

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to all invoices. This buyer's charge is applicable to all successful bidders regardless of affiliation with any group or organization.





- 1934. **1852-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Unusually lustrous for a coin in this grade with considerable prooflike surface still visible under light to moderate hairlines, marks and abrasions. The color is a very attractive medium yellow and coppery gold. Hollow ring at the top of the second vertical stripe of the shield, i.e. the same reverse as seen on the 1851-O. This is a very scarce issue in any grade. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., no other information available.
- 1935. **1853-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Probably cleaned, now rather dull although some original prooflike surface remains. Light to moderate hairlines and contact marks. Medium greenish-yellow gold color with a slight copper tint. Purchased from William Donner for \$29, date of purchase unknown.





1936. **1854-O, Extremely Fine.** Small Date. Sharply struck, some mint luster remains. Many hairlines and handling marks in the fields. Bright yellow gold color with some copper highlights. There is a fine die crack from the left side of the 8 in the date to the rim. Purchased from Stack's George Walton sale, 6/20/63, Lot 419, for \$57.





1937. **1854-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Large Date. A trace of original mint luster is evident under light to moderate hairlines and handling marks. The color is an appealing medium greenish and coppery gold. There is a sharp edge nick above the F in OF on the reverse. The mintmark is weakly impressed into the die. The Large O variety is scarce, but not as rare as it was once thought to be. Purchased by JJP for \$28; no other information is available.

RARE 1855-O EAGLE





- 1938. 1855-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium greenish and coppery gold color. Numerous light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. There is a long, faint scratch above the eagle's left wing running from the rim almost to the neck. There is also a nick on the face below and to the right of the eye. Despite the wear and the few minor marks, this is an attractive example of this scarce, low mintage issue. Only 18,000 pieces were minted. Most known examples are well circulated and the typical 1855-O Eagle is very similar to this one. Purchased from David Bullowa for \$35, date of purchase unknown.
- 1939. **1856, Very Fine.** Cleaned and dull, now with hazy irregular greenish-gold and copper colored surfaces. Heavily hairlined and also with a number of marks and abrasions.

RARE 1856-O EAGLE





- 1940. 1856-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold color; some prooflike surface remains under a slight haze and light to moderate bagmarks, hairlines and abrasions. A very scarce issue with only 14,500 pieces struck. Very similar in overall rarity to the 1852-O and 1855-O; most known specimens are well circulated like this one and the 1856-O is seldom seen above the Extremely Fine grade level. Purchased from Stack's for \$125, date of purchase unknown.
- 1941. **1857-O, Very Fine.** Cleaned at one time, now a uniform light yellow gold color. Numerous light hairlines and handling marks including several heavier ones on the neck. A trace of the original prooflike surface is still evident. This is a very scarce, low mintage issue with only 5,500 pieces minted. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., no other information available.



1942. **1858-O, Extremely Fine.** Sharply struck with partially prooflike surfaces, excellent luster, and attractive light greenish-gold color. There are quite a few handling marks and abrasions including a prominent nick above the eagle's head. By No Motto New Orleans Mint Eagle standards, this is a relatively common issue despite its low



mintage of only 20,000 pieces. Also, due to the specimens found in the Jackson, Tennessee hoard, this is the most common No Motto New Orleans Mint Eagle in AU and mint state. Purchased from Stack's Milton Holmes sale, 10/5/60, Lot 3747, for \$58.

RARE 1859-O EAGLE



1943. **1859-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Although this coin has considerable wear, it is a very attractive specimen in all respects, much nicer than one would normally expect of a VF-EF coin. It is light to medium greenish-gold in color with some areas that have an attractive copper tint. Considerable prooflike surface is still evident, especially on the reverse, and the coin also has quite a bit of luster. There are relatively few hairlines and contact marks in the fields, and I am sure that many will grade this coin full EF; it is certainly a "gem" for the grade. Purchased by JJP as Lot 2443 from the Thomas Melish sale in April 1956 for \$47.50.



This is one of the two rarest Eagles from the New Orleans Mint, the other being the 1883-O. Both of these issues are slightly more rare than the third rarest issue, the 1879-O, although all three of them are major rarities in the high circulated grades and unknown in full mint state. Only 2,300 examples of this issue were struck and most known specimens grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine at best. It has been my experience that the 1859-O Eagle has been a generally overgraded issue, both at auction and by the grading services, and that the grades assigned many examples have been unduly inflated and influenced by the rarity of the issue.

RARE 1860-O EAGLE





1944. **1860-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** A trifle less wear than the 1859-O, but more heavily abraded in the fields and on the face and neck of Liberty. Attractive medium greenish-gold and coppery gold color. Some prooflike surface is still evident under all the marks, friction and hairlines. This is the final Eagle issue from the New Orleans Mint until production resumed in 1879. In any grade, the 1860-O is very scarce and high grade circulated specimens are rare. Mint state examples are very rare but a few attractive specimens are known, in contrast to the 1859-O of which there are no Uncirculated examples known to exist. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, 11/22/55, for \$20.

VERY RARE 1864-S EAGLE



1945. **1864-S**, **Very Fine**. Pale coppery gold color. Light to moderate contact marks and hairlines in the fields and on the face and neck of Liberty. Well worn, but fairly attractive for a coin in this low grade. Only 2,500 pieces were minted and this is one of the rarest of all Liberty Head Eagles, although it is certainly not as rare as Breen has indicated in his Encyclopedia by estimating that,



"Possibly 10-12 (are) known". There are probably at least 25-30 pieces known, if not a few more, but nearly all of them are in low circulated grades. Even a strictly graded Extremely Fine 1864-S Eagle is a major rarity. JJP purchased this coin from Numismatic Gallery's Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 1675, for \$55.





1946. **1866-S, No Motto. Very Good to Fine.** Copper colored toning around the stars, legend and devices. Numerous bagmarks and hairlines as one would expect from the low grade. Rare in all grades; only 8,500 pieces were minted. Purchased from a French's sale, 5/15/59, Lot 14, for \$51.

Delivery of Lots

All Lots must be paid for in full prior to delivery. No Exceptions. Delivery to successful, qualified bidders will be made according to the following schedule.

Session One: Thursday, May 21, 1998 10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon.

Sessions One & Two: Friday, May 22, 1998 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

Any lots picked up in Baltimore will be subject to all applicable state and local taxes. Lots not picked up in Baltimore will be mailed to successful bidders.

RARE 1866-S WITH MOTTO EAGLE



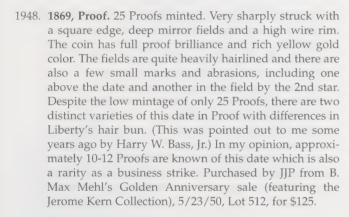


1947. 1866-S, With Motto. Extremely Fine. Heavily bagmarked and abraded with several deep scrapes on the face of Liberty and one noticeable abrasion behind the hair bun. Sharply struck, light orange gold color. Some mint luster remains hidden around the devices. Rare, only 11,500 pieces minted. Most surviving specimens grade only Very Fine or Extremely Fine and this issue is seldom, if ever, seen above the EF grade level. To the best of my knowledge, no mint state examples are known. Beginning with this issue, the mintmark switches from very large (as on all the No Motto issues) to extremely tiny. On some specimens it is almost invisible from being so weakly punched into the die. Purchased from a Lester Merkin sale, 6/12/68, Lot 498, for \$250.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1869 EAGLE

One Of Only 10-12 Proofs Known







This is a Proof-only variety and the dies used to strike this Proof have characteristics that easily distinguish it from business strikes, some of which are highly prooflike. These characteristics are also sufficiently clear to allow the determination of a coin's proof status even if it is now circulated. There is a tiny vertical spike from the forelock directly opposite the 5th star. There are also rust pits in the hair curls below IB in LIBERTY and on the neck just below Liberty's earlobe; considerable die rust is also evident below the bottom curl in the middle of the neck. The reverse is struck from the same die used to mint the Proofs of 1866-1868. There is a tiny die lump to the left of the first S in STATES at the top and a polished area at the top of the two elements in the second vertical stripe of the shield.



1949. **1869-S, Very Fine.** Pale gold color, numerous light hairlines and contact marks. Very scarce in any condition and almost always available only in this grade or an even lower one. However, surprisingly, several nice Uncirculated examples of this date have survived. I once pur-



chased two Choice BU specimens just a few months apart. Both specimens had been acquired in Europe by dealer Ed Shapiro. JJP purchased this coin privately from Numismatic Gallery in 1949 for \$39.

VERY RARE PROOF 1872 EAGLE

Only 12-15 Proofs Known



1950. 1872, Very Choice Proof. 30 Proofs minted. This is a very attractive specimen in all respects and is certainly one of the finest Proof 1872 Eagles in existence. It is fully struck with a nice cameo appearance (deep mirror fields and frosted head and eagle). The edge is sharp and square and there is a prominent wire rim on both sides. The surfaces have a very slight natural haze indicating that the coin is completely original and has never been cleaned, dipped or otherwise tampered with. The color is a beautiful medium orange gold and there are some copper stains on the reverse rim. There are only a few very light hairlines in the fields and the coin is actually very close to full Gem quality. I have not been

able to determine from whom JJP purchased this coin, but from the annotation on his coin envelope it would appear that it was purchased in 1947 or 1948. His envelope reads, "Perf. Bril. Proof. 1947 Catal. \$275.00. Auction record \$350.00. This specimen cost \$200.00."

Of the 30 Proof Eagles minted in 1872, it is my estimate that only 12-15 still exist today. The date is fairly well centered between the denticles and the bust and slants down slightly to the right. The denticles on the left side of the obverse are slightly narrower than those at the right and do not touch one another as they do on the right side. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1869, identifiable by the shiny area at the top of the second vertical stripe in the shield; the die lump to the left of the first S in STATES, however, has been polished away.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1876 EAGLE



1951. **1876, Choice Proof.** 45 Proofs minted. This is a second Proof Eagle from the 1870's in the John Jay Pittman Collection that has outstanding color and overall eye appeal. It is fully struck with a sharp square edge and a wire rim all around on both sides. The fields are brilliant and very mirrorlike and the color is a superb medium orange gold. There are only a few very minor hairlines on the reverse, a few more on the obverse including several light ones across Liberty's face which limit the coin to the Choice Proof category. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's "Memorable" sale, 3/2/48, Lot 574, for \$210.



Previously in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale in January 1946 where it was Lot 681 and realized \$225.

In Proof, the 1876 Eagle is a rarity although it is not as rare as any of the Proof issues preceding it. The 1876 Eagle is also a major rarity as a business strike since only 687 pieces were struck for commerce and none of the relatively few survivors is known in mint state. Of the original 45 Proofs, at least 15 specimens have survived, possibly as many as 20. All of the Proofs were struck from a single pair of dies, easily identified by the large rust pit at the right corner of Liberty's eye and the triangle shaped rust lump below the lowest curl in the middle of Liberty's neck. This is a Proof-only variety; the business strikes were minted from different dies.

1952. **1879, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Light to medium yellow gold with copper shades around the stars, date, letters and devices. Moderate to heavy bagmarks in addition to a number of fairly heavy hairlines. Most of

these are on the obverse; the reverse is much nicer and is nearly Uncirculated. There are two sharp edge nicks on the obverse rim bracketing the 5th star.

RARE 1879-O EAGLE



1953. **1879-O, Extremely Fine.** Medium greenish-yellow gold color with a slight copper tint, most evident around the stars, date, letters and devices. Some of the original prooflike surface is still evident on both sides. There are a number of light to moderately heavy contact marks and hairlines as well as several tiny rim nicks. Overall, the appearance of this coin is quite good for the grade.



With only 1,500 pieces minted, the 1879-O is obviously a rare issue in any condition. Most of the known examples are in Very Fine or Extremely Fine condition and specimens above the EF grade level are very rare. This example was purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's Menjou sale in June 1950, Lot 1745, for \$77.50.

- 1954. **1879-S**, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now with irregular color and many bagmarks and hairlines.
- 1955. **1880, Extremely Fine.** Greenish-yellow gold with copper coloration in the letters, stars, date and around the devices. Heavy marks behind Liberty's head, scattered light to medium marks elsewhere.



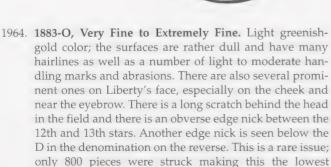


- 1956. **1880-O**, Extremely Fine. Sharply struck with medium orange and coppery gold color and lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces. Heavy contact marks and abrasions on both sides. Very flashy despite the heavy marks, the most prominent of which are in the field between the 2nd star and Liberty's chin. This is a low mintage issue that is very scarce in any condition; only 9,200 pieces were struck. Purchased from James Kelly for \$42.50, date of purchase unknown.
- 1957. **1880-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Probably cleaned at one time, now a hazy light orange gold color. Partially prooflike surfaces that have a number of light to moderate bagmarks. There is also one prominent abrasion across Liberty's nose and eye.

- 1958. **1881, Extremely Fine.** Light gold color with pale copper highlights. Light to medium bagmarks and just a trace of luster.
- 1959. **1881-CC**, Extremely Fine. Light coppery gold color. Heavy abrasions on the face and a prominent gouge in the shield between the first and second vertical stripes. Purchased from a James Kelly sale, 3/18/60, Lot 630, for \$40.
- 1960. **1881-O, Very Fine.** Dull, medium orange gold color. Many light hairlines as well as moderately heavy handling marks. Some prooflike surface still remains on the reverse. A scarce, low mintage date; only 8,350 pieces were minted. Purchased from James Kelly for \$40, date of transaction unknown.
- 1961. **1881-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now a dull vellow gold color with copper highlights.
- 1962. 1882-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium greenish-yellow gold with traces of copper toning. Sharply struck; considerable prooflike surface on the reverse. Many hairlines and bagmarks in the fields. Another scarce New Orleans Mint issue; only 10,820 pieces were struck. Purchased from William Donner for \$55, date of purchase not recorded in JIP's notes.
- 1963. **1883, Extremely Fine.** Light yellow and orange gold color. Heavy handling marks and abrasions on both sides, especially on the face of Liberty.

RARE 1883-O EAGLE





mintage Eagle from the New Orleans Mint. In fact, it is



actually the lowest mintage New Orleans Mint gold coin of any denomination. This rare issue also has the further distinction of having the lowest mintage of any Eagle struck at one of the branch mints. Probably no more than 40-50 examples of this issue still exist and nearly all of them are in grades similar to this one. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's famous Thomas G. Melish Collection sale in 1956 as Lot 2507 for \$235, a price that was actually \$10 more than the amount JJP paid for the Proof 1855 Type II Gold Dollar from the same sale.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1888 EAGLE





1965. 1888, Very Choice Proof. 72 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a partial wire rim at the top of the obverse. Rich yellow and orange gold color and very slightly hazy surfaces. The reverse is nearly Gem quality, but the obverse has some very light hairlines including one across Liberty's face. (Some of the apparent "hairlines" in the fields are actually planchet lines present at the time of striking.) This is an original, uncleaned, undipped specimen that, despite the few light obverse hairlines, has an excellent overall appearance. JJP purchased this coin at Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, Part Two, 5/70, Lot 1111, for \$1,050. As was his practice at that time, JJP consigned some coins to his good friend, Abe Kosoff, for Kosoff to sell on his behalf and

keep the proceeds on account; Kosoff paid for this coin for JJP out of the funds he had received. After 1961, this was the method JJP used for almost every purchase he made since he was no longer using any "out-of-pocket" funds for his coin purchases.

As is the case with most Proof gold coins after 1840, this is a Proofonly variety. The date is punched low in the field and slants up slightly to the right; there is repunching in the top of the final 8 of the date. On the reverse, considerable die polishing has removed some of the eagle's feathers between the top of the arrow feather and the bottom of the shield on the left side. Only 72 Proofs of this denomination were struck, fewer than of any other denomination of the year. Not surprisingly then, this is the rarest gold Proof of the year and it is much more difficult to locate than most people realize. It is similar in rarity to the Proof 1876 Eagle and only 15-20 examples are thought to exist.

1966. **1888-O, Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces and attractive medium yellow and orange gold color. Moderate to heavy handling marks and abrasions, the most noticeable right in front of the nose and eye. Although only 21,335 pieces were struck, this is

one of the most common of the New Orleans Mint Eagles. Uncirculated examples of this quality are only moderately scarce, but in Choice Uncirculated or higher grade, this issue is very rare and almost never available. Acquired by JJP from James Kelly on 3/12/59 for \$42.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1889 EAGLE

One Of Only 12-15 Proofs Known



1967. 1889, Gem Proof. 45 Proofs minted. This is an absolutely fabulous coin for a Proof 1889 Eagle, in fact, the finest Proof of this date that I have ever seen. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields, a nice cameo effect and superb medium coppery orange gold color. The surfaces have a light haze which testifies to this coin's originality and the fact that it has never been cleaned or dipped. The edge is sharp and square and has a partial wire rim. The reverse of the coin is superb and essentially flawless. The obverse is also extremely high quality, although close inspection does reveal a few trivial hairlines under the haze. From an overall quality and eye appeal standpoint, this is undoubtedly the finest of the Liberty Head Eagles in the

John Jay Pittman Collection; it is also one of the rarest. Purchased by JJP from Garland Stephens, a specialist in U.S. Proof gold coins, for \$550, date of transaction unknown, but probably sometime in the early 1960's based on the price paid.

The 1889 is the rarest Proof Liberty Head Eagle from 1885-1907. Of the 45 pieces struck, no more than 12-15 still exist today, a total that places the Proof 1889 Eagle in the same rarity class as the Double Eagle of the same date; it is just slightly more rare than the Proof 1889 Half Eagle. The date is high in the field with the 1 closer to the bust than to the denticles; the 9 is closed. This is a Proof-only variety and it is most easily identified by the doubling in the reverse legend at AME of AMERICA.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1890 EAGLE





1968. 1890, Very Choice Proof. 63 Proofs minted. A very flashy specimen with a Gem quality reverse and an obverse that has only some light hairlines. The head of Liberty and the eagle are frosted giving the coin a superb cameo effect since they contrast nicely with the deep mirror fields. The color is a beautiful medium yellow gold. There is a "shiny" spot on the chin "as made", something often seen on Proof Liberty Head Eagles. The 9 in the date is closed and there is a trace of repunching at the bottom of the 0 in the date. Again, this is a Proof-only

variety and it is easily identified by the repunching on the 0. Purchased from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$600 using funds that remained on account with Kosoff from the Max L. Justus transaction in 1959 that was described in the Pittman I catalogue under Lot 1161.

The 1890 Eagle is a rarity in Proof. It is considerably more rare than the Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle of the same date and it is very nearly in the same rarity class as the Double Eagle. Of the 63 pieces struck, it is estimated that no more than 20-25 have survived.

VERY RARE PROOF 1891 EAGLE





1969. **1891, Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. 48 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a frosted head and eagle, deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and a partial wire rim. The surfaces have a slight hazy film and beautiful medium coppery gold color. There are some light hairlines on both sides as well as some planchet lines that were not eliminated by the minting process. The face of Liberty is clean, but it has the "shiny" chin that is

often seen on Proof Liberty Head Eagles (cf. the 1890 in the preceding lot). Purchased from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 297, for \$180.

Despite its significantly lower mintage in Proof, the 1891 Eagle is only slightly more rare than the 1890 and is definitely not as rare as the almost identical mintage 1889. At least 15 specimens still exist and the number may be closer to 20.





1970. **1891-CC**, **Uncirculated**. A frosty specimen with a sharp strike, good luster and light gold color with a few areas of attractive copper toning. Double punched CC mintmark with the repunching visible on both of the C's; the first mintmark was punched to the right and then partially effaced prior to the mintmark being punched into the proper position. The repunching is most clear on the second C

with the bottom curve of the original C visible to the right; on the first C, the repunching is only visible inside the C. On the obverse, there is a small spine below the chin and a die crack through the stars at the left. When first discovered, this variety was thought to be rare, but it is now known to be only moderately scarce. Purchased by JJP for \$28, seller and date of transaction unknown.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1892 EAGLE





1971. **1892, Choice Proof.** 72 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge and a partial wire rim. Beautiful medium orange gold color. Deep mirror fields, but with small patches of dullness, probably the result of the way the coin was stored. The reverse is very choice with only a few very light hairlines. The obverse has more hairlines, including some light ones in the field in front of the face, and one running from the face to the neck. The point of the chin is "shiny", as it often is on Proof Eagles of this era, and there are also a couple of horizontal hairlines on the chin. Much better looking than the detailed description makes it sound and really very attractive

overall. Purchased by JJP from the 1960 ANA sale conducted by Harold Whiteneck, Lot 1255, for \$500.

In Proof, the 1892 Eagle is slightly less rare than the 1891 and of virtually the same rarity as the 1890; only 20-25 specimens are thought to exist. This number also puts the Eagle in the same rarity class as the Proof Double Eagle of the same date. Like all the Proof Eagles of this decade, this piece was struck from Proof-only dies. On the obverse, the heavy date is low in the field with the 1 closer to the denticles than the bust. The 9 is closed and has a small rust pit on the right side. On the reverse, above UNITED and AMERICA, the denticles are narrow and have mirror surface between them. Also, the two vertical bars in each of the first four red stripes of the eagle's shield are much thinner than those of the two stripes at the right.

1972. **1892-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck. Light coppery gold color. There is a spot in the left obverse field. There are also moderate to heavy abrasions through-

out the fields and not a great deal of luster. Purchased from Al Overton, but JJP's notes do not indicate the price or date of purchase.

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1893 EAGLE





1973. **1893, Choice Proof.** 55 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and a partial wire rim. Deep mirror fields and superb medium orange gold surfaces that have a very light natural haze. There are only a few very faint hairlines in the fields as well as a few scattered, almost microscopic, marks. The cheek of Liberty is very clean and the coin has a beautiful original appearance. Purchased from Abe Kosoff, 3/13/62, for \$650 using

funds remaining on account with Kosoff from the Max Justus transaction of 1959.

The 1893 is among the rarest Proof Eagles of the decade; only an estimated 15-20 pieces are known. The heavy date is low in the field with the 1 closer to the denticles than to the bust, 8 and 9 slightly higher than the 1 and 3, and 93 open. The reverse is similar to the 1892 with thin vertical bars in the four left red stripes of the shield and mirror surfaces between some, but not all, denticles.

1974. **1893, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Pale orange gold color. The obverse is moderately to heavily abraded; the reverse is less marked.





1975. 1893-CC, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces and attractive medium orange gold color. Light scratch in the field by the 1st star. I have long considered this to be a very underrated issue. It is similar in overall rarity to the CC Mint Eagles of the early 1880's (except the 1882-CC which is more rare), but despite its low mintage, this issue has never received much recognition as a scarce issue. However, it is very difficult to find in grades above EF and mint state examples are very rare. Purchased from James Kelly for \$32, date of purchase unknown.

1976. **1893-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Hazy surfaces, medium orange gold color. Numerous light hairlines and handling marks including several heavy ones on the truncation of the neck. There is a spot behind the head of Miss Liberty. Considerable luster still lies beneath the haze. Purchased from James Kelly for \$30, date of purchase unknown, but apparently purchased at the same time as the 1893-CC in the preceding lot.

Viewing of Lots

- 1. Lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be available for viewing in Salons A, B, and C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor from Saturday, May 16, 1998, through Thursday, May 21, 1998, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:30 P.M. daily.
- 2. Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from April 27, 1998, through May 12, 1998 (excluding weekends), by appointment only.

VERY RARE PROOF 1894 EAGLE



1977. 1894, Very Choice Proof. 43 Proofs minted. Outstanding cameo appearance with the frosted head and eagle contrasted against deep mirror fields. Beautiful light copper and yellow gold color. The surfaces are slightly hazy, a common characteristic of U.S. Proof gold coins of the 19th Century that have not been cleaned or dipped. A lint mark connects the 9 and 4 in the date. The face of Liberty is very clean, completely free of hairlines and marks, and there are only a few faint hairlines in the fields under the slight cloudiness. In terms of overall appearance, this is a terrific looking coin, one of the



nicest of JJP's Proof Eagles from the 1890's. Purchased from Paramount's Grand Central sale, 11/19/73, Lot 1960, for \$3,000. Paid for by Abe Kosoff using funds received from the sale of JJP's complete set of Matte Proof gold coins from 1908-1915.

In Proof, the 1894 Eagle is similar in rarity to the 1891 and 1893. Of the 43 Proofs struck, only an estimated 15-20 pieces have survived, no more than a handful of which are comparable in overall quality to this beautiful specimen. The date is low in the field with the 1 nearer the denticles than the bust; the 9 is closed. The reverse die appears to be the same die used to strike the 1893, but repolished.

1978. 1894-O, Very Fine. Cleaned, dull orange gold color.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1895 EAGLE



1979. 1895, Very Choice Proof. 56 Proofs minted. A very brilliant Proof with no haze or cloudiness. Very sharply struck with a square edge, a partial wire rim, and deep mirror fields. The head of Liberty and the eagle are frosted giving the coin a lovely cameo appearance. The color is a medium yellow gold and the surfaces have considerable orange peel texture. The face of Liberty is very clean and the reverse is solidly in the Gem category, but there are a few light hairlines in the obverse field, especially in front of the face. Purchased from Abe Kosoff,



3/13/62, for \$650 using funds from the earlier Max Justus transaction.

Despite their essentially equal mintages, the 1895 Eagle is not quite as rare in Proof as the 1893. Of the 56 specimens minted, perhaps as many as 20-25 still exist placing this date in the same rarity class as the 1890 and 1892. The heavy date is low in the field and slants up very slightly to the right; both the 9 and 5 in the date are closed. The reverse die is similar to the 1894 and previous years; it may even be the same die although the denticles above AMERICA are now thinner and have more mirror surface between them, possibly from repolishing.

1980. 1895-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Dull surfaces, light to medium orange gold color. A trace of the original semi-prooflike surface remains.

VERY RARE PROOF 1896 EAGLE



1981. 1896, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 78 Proofs minted. Superb rich yellow gold color and an excellent cameo appearance with the frosted head and eagle contrasted against the deeply mirrorlike fields. This Proof is fully struck with a sharp square edge and a partial wire rim. The surfaces have a light cloudy film, and under the film there are many light hairlines on the obverse, mostly in the field in front of the face and behind the head: there are several hairlines across the face and neck as well. There is also one small abrasion in the obverse field between the first two stars and the neck and truncation of the bust. The reverse is much higher quality than the obverse and is nearly in the Gem category. Despite the hairlines, this coin has excellent eye appeal due to the rich color and cameo appearance. Purchased by JJP from the Gaston DiBello Collection sale, Part Two, 5/14/70, Lot 1132, for \$1,200. Once again, Abe Kosoff paid for this lot on JJP's behalf using funds he had on account as a result of selling coins for JJP.

Like all Proof Eagles of this decade, the 1896 Eagle was struck from Proof-only dies which are instantly identifiable by the repunching on the 1 and 8 of the date. The repunching on the 8 is barely perceptible within the bottom of the lower loop, but the repunching on the 1 is very clear just above the entire base. There are also many raised die scratches in the field near the date, and other die scratches curve out into the field from the neck and the truncation. The reverse appears similar to the reverse of the 1895 and is probably from the same die. This is by far the rarest gold denomination of the year. It is similar in rarity to most of the earlier Proof Eagles of the decade despite its slightly higher mintage; only 20-25 Proofs are thought to exist.

VERY RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1897 EAGLE



1982. **1897, Very Choice Proof.** 69 Proofs minted. A beautiful Proof with superb medium coppery gold color. Fully struck with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and a very nice cameo appearance. The surfaces have a very slight cloudy film and, under the haze, on the obverse only, there are a few light hairlines; the reverse is easily full Gem quality. Again, this is a Proof-only variety distinguished by noticeable repunching at the 1 and 7 of the date, the 7 at the very top, and the 1 at the upper left serif and at the base. Repunching is also barely visible on the 9 at the upper left curve on the outside; no repunching is visible on the 8. Purchased by JJP on 2/27/60 from Stack's sale of the James Spaulding White Collection. The coin appeared as Lot 956 in that sale and realized \$350.

The 1897 Eagle in Proof is similar in rarity to the 1896 as well as most of the earlier Proof Eagles of this decade. Out of the small total of just 69 Proofs minted, at most 20-25 pieces can be accounted for today. For some inexplicable reason, most Proof 1897 Eagles are relatively low quality, and it has been my experience that finding a really nice 1897 Eagle in Proof is considerably more difficult than finding an equivalent quality example of any other Proof Eagle of the decade with the possible exception of the 1893.

1983. **1897-O, Extremely Fine.** Dull surfaces, possibly from being cleaned. Medium orange gold color. Numerous light handling marks and hairlines. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 10/61, Lot 1623, for \$37.50.

RARE PROOF 1898 EAGLE



1984. 1898, Very Choice Proof. 67 Proofs minted. Very cloudy, but the surfaces appear to be very clean under the haze with only a few faint hairlines including several in the obverse field in front of the neck. The coin is very sharply struck with deep mirrorlike fields, a sharp square edge, and a lightly frosted head and eagle. The color is a beautiful medium coppery gold, although the cloudy film imparts a very slight blue-green tint to the surfaces. Some of the light hairlines may be affecting only the haze and not the actual surfaces of the coin. On Liberty's chin, there is a slight "shiny" spot "as made", something common to many Proof Eagles. JJP purchased this coin from Garland Stephens, a connoisseur and specialist in U.S. Proof gold coins, at the 1961 ANA convention in Atlanta for \$550.

Although similar in mintage to most of the other Proof Eagles of this decade, the 1898 is more common than any of the Proofs preceding it. Of the 67 Proofs minted, an estimated 30-35 specimens still exist; however, not many of them are as attractive and original as this one.

1985. 1898, Almost Uncirculated. A lustrous specimen with light yellow gold color that has a faint copper tint. Red spots on the obverse, probably removable. Light hairlines and contact marks throughout the fields. Double punched date, barely visible on 898, but very clear on the 1 at the base and the top left serif.

CHOICE PROOF 1899 EAGLE



1986. 1899, Choice Proof. 86 Proofs minted. An unusual coin for a Proof with a slightly concave reverse and convex obverse. The stars above Liberty's head are weak, but the rest of the coin is very sharply struck. The edge is sharp and square and the fields are deeply mirrorlike. The coin is a beautiful medium coppery gold color and the surfaces are covered with a very light haze, not as heavy as that on the 1898 Proof, but similar to JJP's Proof Eagles of the late 1880's and early 1890's. Under the light cloudy film, there are some light hairlines, mostly on the obverse. There is also a tiny hairline scratch on the reverse near the bottom of the right wing of the eagle as well as one small scratch in the field near the tip of the truncation of Liberty's bust. This is a Proof-only variety, easily identified by the double punched 1 in the date, the repunching very prominent at the base. The 8 is also slightly repunched, but the repunching on this numeral is barely visible. Rare, more or less on a par with the 1898; only 30-35 Proofs are known. Purchased from Garland Stephens, 8/18/62, at the 1962 Detroit ANA convention for \$650.

1987. **1899-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. Lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces and attractive medium orange gold color. Light to moderate handling marks and abrasions throughout the fields. There is a trace of repunching at the bottom of the first 9 in the date. An attractive example of this moderately scarce issue. Purchased from a Mr. Ruddel for \$37.50, date of purchase unknown.

CHOICE PROOF 1900 EAGLE



1988. 1900, Choice Proof. 120 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a square edge and brilliant, deep mirror fields. Nice cameo appearance due to the lightly frosted head and eagle. The surfaces have a light cloudy film and beautiful light to medium orange gold color. There are some faint hairlines in the field, but many of the lines are planchet lines rather than hairlines. The face of Liberty is clean. This is another unusual Proof with a very pronounced weakness at AMERICA on the reverse as well as D of the denomination. The stop between the denomination and AMERICA is extremely weak and barely visible. This weakness is undoubtedly due to some sort of die problem and is particularly unusual since Proof 1900 Eagles were typically made to a very high standard of quality; actually, it is surprising that a substandard Proof like this would have been released from the Mint. This is the most common Liberty Head Eagle in Proof, hardly surprising since the 1900 had the highest mintage of any Proof in the series; 120 were struck and it is estimated that 40-50 examples still exist. This coin was purchased from M.L. Kaplan for \$100, date of purchase unknown.

CHOICE PROOF 1901 EAGLE



1989. 1901, Choice Proof. 85 Proofs minted. A very attractive original coin with light to medium orange and coppery gold color and a slight natural haze which covers the few light hairlines and minor contact marks. There is a minor planchet irregularity at the left side of the second 1 in the date, another at the 13th star by the denticles. This is a Proof-only variety identifiable by slight repunching at the bases of the 1 and the 9 in the date. Rare, more so than the 1900, and roughly on a par with the Proofs of 1898 and 1899. Approximately 30-35 examples are believed to exist. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/60, Lot 2824, for \$450.

- 1990. **1901, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous, well struck specimen with light orange gold color. There are some minor hairlines and handling marks in the fields. There is also a spot between the 11th and 12th stars. Purchased from a Mr. Lapp, no other information available.
- 1991. **1901-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Dull surfaces, medium orange gold color. Sharply struck. Light hairlines and contact marks throughout the fields.
- 1992. **1901-S**, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with full original mint luster and color, a beautiful light to medium orange gold. Repunched 01 in the date, the repunching visible at the bases and most obvious at the base of the 1.

CHOICE PROOF 1902 EAGLE





1993. 1902, Choice Proof. 113 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and brilliant mirrorlike fields. A light natural haze covers medium yellow gold surfaces that have a slight orange or copper colored tint. A few light hairlines are present on both sides, but they are well concealed by the light cloudy film; there are no nicks or contact marks visible on the coin. This is the first year of the "all brilliant" Proofs which are charac-

terized by a uniform brilliant surface on the devices as well as in the fields; the devices have little or none of the frosted texture of earlier issues. An estimated 35-40 examples of this date are known in Proof. Purchased from the same sale as the 1901 Proof, namely, the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960; this coin appeared as Lot 2826 and realized \$525.

PROOF 1903 EAGLE





1994. 1903, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 96 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and a sharp square edge and extraordinary brilliance. The color is a very attractive medium yellow gold. The reverse is Gem quality, but the obverse has a moderate number of light hairlines in the field in front of the face as well as across

the face. Even with the hairlines, this is an attractive and flashy coin. Similar in rarity to the 1902; approximately 35-40 Proofs of this date still exist. Purchased on 10/3/63 from W.W. Turner for \$600. Turner, from Nashville, Tennessee, was the author of the popular 1971 book *Gold Coins for Financial Survival*.

1995. **1903-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Semi-prooflike surfaces, light to medium orange gold color.

Average luster for the grade. Numerous hairlines and handling marks.

PROOF 1904 EAGLE



1996. 1904, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 108 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and brilliant mirror surfaces. Beautiful medium coppery gold color. The surfaces are slightly to moderately hazy and, under the haze on the obverse, there are quite a few light hairlines. The reverse, however, is very choice with only



a few widely scattered and very faint hairlines. Similar in rarity to the Proof Eagles of 1902 and 1903; approximately 35-40 Proofs are known of this date. Purchased from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1961, Lot 1323, for \$750.

1997. **1904-O**, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Probably cleaned at one time, now a medium orange gold

color. Numerous light handling marks, but nothing really serious.

PROOF 1905 EAGLE



1998. 1905, Proof. 86 Proofs minted. Unfortunately, this coin is lower in quality than any of the other Proof Liberty Head Eagles in the Pittman Collection. The obverse is heavily hairlined and the reverse has several prominent carbon spots, including one large one in the reverse field below the left wing. The field around the spot has been disturbed indicating that someone has made an unsuccessful attempt to remove the spot. There are also fairly



dense hairlines around the eagle's head. This Proof is fully struck and has mirror fields and a square edge. It also has rich yellow gold color except in the area of the reverse spot. Slightly more rare than the Proofs of the three years immediately preceding it and very similar in rarity to the 1898, 1899 and 1901. Approximately 30-35 Proof 1905 Eagles still exist. Purchased from Abe Kosoff for \$275, date of purchase unknown.

1999. **1905**, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, virtually mint state. A frosty, sharply struck specimen with light orange gold color and very good luster. Mostly light handling marks

except for a moderate abrasion between the eagle's beak and wing.

CHOICE PROOF 1906 EAGLE



2000. 1906, Choice Proof, perhaps even finer. 77 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a sharp square edge and brilliant mirror fields. Rich yellow gold color with a faint orange tint. There are some light hairlines on both sides as well as a small circular unfinished area at the 10th star. There is another small unfinished area in the field in front of the chin plus an even smaller one between the 2nd and 3rd stars. The reverse is very choice except for a few light hairlines under the eagle's right wing. There is a die rust pit on the right side of the 9 in the date and there are many raised die scratches on the face near Liberty's eye, ear and vertical hair curl as well as along her jaw. Planchet imperfections are seen at the T of TEN and on the horizontal stripes of the shield. Rare; only 30-35 Proofs are known. Purchased from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$600.

- 2001. **1906, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Semi-prooflike surfaces, medium orange gold color. Purchased from a Mr. Lapp, 3/9/55, purchase price unknown.
- 2002. 1906-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. Lustrous and well struck, light orange gold color. Purchased for \$17.50, seller and date of purchase unknown.
- 2003. **1906-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Well struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike fields and attractive light to medium orange gold color. Purchased from a Wayte Raymond sale, 2/18/47, Lot 654, for \$36.

PROOF 1907 EAGLE



2004. 1907, Liberty Head Type. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 74 Proofs minted. There is a light cloudy film covering the surfaces which imparts a slightly blue cast to the otherwise light to medium coppery gold color. Very sharply struck with full proof brilliance and luster beneath the haze. Unfortunately, there are quite a few light hairlines in the fields as well as some on Liberty's chin. The reverse is very high quality, nearly in the Gem category despite a few faint hairlines around the eagle's head. This is the lowest mintage Proof Liberty Head Eagle from 1899-1907, but the survival rate of the Proofs of this year must have been slightly greater than for some other years since the 1907 is actually one of the most common of all Proof Liberty Head Eagles. Approximately 35-40 Proofs are known, placing this issue in the same rarity class as the 1902, 1903 and 1904.

- 2005. 1907, Liberty Head. Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous surfaces, light orange gold color. Moderate to heavy bagmarks and abrasions.
- 2006. **1907-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually mint state. A lustrous specimen with light orange gold color and semi-prooflike surfaces which have a number of light hairlines and contact marks. There is also a small planchet depression by the hair curl on Liberty's neck. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's Thomas G. Melish sale in 1956, Lot 2597, for \$22.50.
- 2007. **1907-S, Extremely Fine.** Medium gold color with copper colored toning around the devices, date, stars and legend. Cleaned and lightly burnished. Scratch at D of the denomination. Purchased for \$23, no other information available.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1907 WIRE EDGE EAGLE





2008. 1907, Indian Head or Saint-Gaudens Type. Wire Edge, Periods. Choice Uncirculated. Typical strike for the issue, i.e. weak at the rims, obverse stars and below the date. The luster is about average and there are only a few light hairlines in the fields as well as a few marks on the high wire rim. There are also several marks in the head-dress and hair in the shape of stars indicating that this coin has come in contact with the edge of another Indian Head Eagle. In the reverse field, there are many raised die scratches from extensive polishing of the dies. The obverse has fewer of these raised die scratches than the reverse (typical for the issue) as well as fewer than on most Wire Edge Eagles I have seen. JJP purchased this coin from the New Netherlands 26th sale, 11/48, Lot 19, for \$82.50.

Technically, the 1907 Wire Edge Eagle is a pattern (J-1774) since only a relatively small number were minted, and they were never intended to be issued into regular commercial channels. The number struck was not recorded by the Mint, but according to a letter from Philadelphia dealer Henry Chapman to collector John Work Garrett in February 1908, 500 pieces of this issue were minted. Since Chapman had very close connections at the Mint, this number is generally accepted as correct today and it is certainly consistent with the number of known specimens. Almost immediately, 1907 Wire Edge Eagles were recognized by numismatists as rarities and valuable collector's items, and B. Max Mehl once noted (in his 1921 G.F.E. Wilharm sale catalogue) that, "When first issued, this variety sold up to \$75", a price well in excess of the value of most gold coins at that time other than a few famous rarities. Because of the beauty and novelty of the design, many of this issue were apparently saved and perhaps as many as 300-350 examples have survived, virtually all of them mint state, many of them in Choice condition.

2009. **1907, Indian Head. No Periods. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Pale orange gold color. Light hairlines in the fields as well as a few minor contact marks on the reverse. A trace of original luster remains.





2010. 1908, No Motto. Uncirculated. Sharply struck with a very broad border. The reverse is nearly in the Choice category with excellent luster, rich yellow gold color and only a few light hairlines and marks. The obverse is strictly Uncirculated but does not have as much luster as the reverse; it also has some light marks on the face as well as a few faint hairlines. This is a very scarce issue in Uncirculated condition; only 33,500 pieces were minted, the second lowest mintage figure of the entire series after only the 1911-D. Purchased by JJP for \$30, seller and date of purchase unknown.

2011. 1908-D, No Motto. Very Fine. Cleaned, now cloudy and dull; medium orange gold color. Many light hairlines and handling marks. Purchased from Stack's sale of the Dr. Clifford E. Smith & Son Collection, 5/6/55, Lot 1908, for \$26.

2012. 1908, With Motto. Extremely Fine. Cleaned, light orange gold color. Lightly hairlined but relatively unmarked. A trace of mint luster remains.

Catalogue Descriptions

Coin descriptions in this catalogue are written based on the viewer's orientation as opposed to that of the design element being described. For example, a comment about the "eagle's left wing" refers to the wing on the viewer's left even though, technically, it is the eagle's right wing. The cataloguer (David W. Akers) prefers this method of description, but readers are advised that some other cataloguers use the opposite convention. Perhaps the least ambiguous manner of description would be to say, "The eagle's wing on the left side of the coin", but this seems rather cumbersome and wordy.

VERY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1908-D WITH MOTTO EAGLE



2013. **1908-D, With Motto. Gem Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and fully lustrous with beautiful light to medium orange gold color. There are a few light hairlines and trivial marks on both sides, but this is a coin with outstanding eye appeal. Purchased from J. Sary, 4/29/55, for \$30.

This issue is one of the many condition rarities in the popular Indian Head Eagle series. Although minimal quality Uncirculated examples are not especially difficult to find, at the Choice Uncirculated level the 1908-D With Motto Eagle is very scarce, if not rare, and, in Gem condition, it is one of the rarest and most desirable issues in the entire series. The mintage of the 1908-D With Motto Eagle was not particularly low, 836,500 pieces, but most of the issue must have gone directly into circulation with few high quality mint state examples saved. This specimen is comparable in overall quality to "Southern Gentleman": 438 (Akers/Rarcoa, 7/19/96) and, among all 1908-D With Motto Eagles sold at public auction in the past 10-15 years, it is distinctly surpassed only by the Louis Eliasberg specimen and the Dr. Thaine B. Price specimen.

- 2014. **1908-S, Extremely Fine.** Medium orange gold color, a trace of mint luster remains. There are several deep cuts on the eagle and some light to moderate abrasions in the reverse field. A scarce issue in any condition with only 59,850 pieces struck.
- 2015. 1909, Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous, medium orange gold color. A few light hairlines and minor abrasions in the fields.

- 2016. **1909-D, Very Fine.** Cleaned and dull, now a medium yellow gold color.
- 2017. **1909-D, Very Fine.** A second example, this a little more lustrous than the preceding, but also more heavily marked. Medium yellow gold color.

ATTRACTIVE MINT STATE 1909-S EAGLE





- 2018. 1909-S, Uncirculated, virtually in the Choice category. The reverse is nearly Gem quality and is absolutely beautiful even though the luster is a bit muted due to the manner in which the coin was stored for many years (a manila coin envelope). The obverse is more vibrant than the reverse in terms of luster, but it is downgraded somewhat due to several minor marks on the face and chin. There are also a few light hairlines on the head, but the fields are clean and nearly free of marks or hairlines. This specimen is the very rare Double S mintmark variety with numerous die scratches around the mintmark and at the end of the fasces. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's Adolphe Menjou sale, 6/50, Lot 1716, for \$27.50.
- 2019. **1910, Very Fine.** Cleaned, now a pale orange gold color. Numerous light hairlines and contact marks in the fields including one large gouge in the field below UNUM.
- 2020. 1910-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. This coin is actually best described as a mint state specimen that has been lightly wiped and now has quite a few hairlines on both sides, more on the obverse than on the reverse. The coin is sharply struck and lustrous and has attractive light orange gold color. Purchased from Sam Kabealo for \$22.50, date of transaction unknown.
- 2021. **1910-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light to medium orange gold color; subdued luster and light hairlines but very few marks.
- 2022. 1910-S, Uncirculated. Well struck with excellent luster; moderate to heavy bagmarks and abrasions in the fields. There is also a scratch in the lower left obverse field near the rim. Attractive light yellow gold color with areas of copper toning. This issue is only moderately scarce in the minimal Uncirculated quality offered here, but at the Choice Uncirculated level and above, the 1910-S is one of the premier condition rarities of the series. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff in 1956 for \$35.

- 2023. 1910-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now a dull medium orange gold color. No "life" or luster.
- 2024. **1911, Almost Uncirculated.** Medium yellow gold color, a trace of luster. Nick on the obverse rim at 7 o'clock. Numerous other small marks in the fields as well as a few light hairlines including a long vertical one on the face.
- 2025. **1911-D, Extremely Fine.** Medium yellow gold with some copper highlights around the letters and devices. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time, now without much luster and with quite a few hairlines on both sides. The mintmark is weak. Only 30,100 pieces were minted, the lowest mintage figure of the entire series. Purchased for \$23.50, but no other information is available.
- 2026. **1911-D, Very Fine.** Dull and cleaned with no "life" or luster. Medium orange and yellow gold color. Many hairlines as well as a few light scratches.
- 2027. 1911-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly mint state. Very subdued luster, probably due to the manner in which it was stored (a manila coin envelope) for more than 40 years. The coin has light to medium orange gold color as well as some contact marks on the face and a few faint hairlines. Just a trace of friction on the hair around Liberty's face and on the eagle's wing. A low mintage issue with only 51,000 pieces struck. JJP paid \$31 for this coin, but no additional information is available.
- 2028. **1911-S**, Very Fine. Cleaned, light to medium orange gold color. Numerous hairlines and handling marks.
- 2029. **1912, Extremely Fine.** Light yellow gold color with a trace of a copper tint on the obverse. Heavy abrasion on the chin as well as other light handling marks and hairlines.
- 2030. **1912-S, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned and dull, now with little or no luster; medium orange gold color. A few marks on the face as well as scattered hairlines. There are also marks in the eagle's wing feathers.
- 2031. **1912-S, Very Fine.** Harshly cleaned, now with blotchy yellow gold and light orange toning. Numerous light marks and hairlines.
- 2032. 1913, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly mint state. A lustrous specimen with beautiful medium yellow gold color. There is a mark on the forehead and several nicks on the chin as well as a couple of smaller ones on the cheek. There are also some light hairlines in addition to a few minor marks on the eagle's wing.





- 2033. 1913-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. This is an attractive coin for the grade. It has considerable mint luster remaining and lovely light orange gold color. There are a few minor marks on the cheek, but the surfaces of the coin are otherwise quite clean with only a few light marks and hairlines. Another low mintage issue in the series; only 66,000 were minted.
- 2034. **1914, Extremely Fine.** Probably cleaned at one time, now a medium yellow gold color. Heavy marks on the eagle, one noticeable one on the cheek.





- 2035. **1914-D, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with very good luster. Small mark on the cheek (an incused star from the edge of another Indian Head Eagle), but relatively few other marks. There are a few light hairlines on both sides, however.
- 2036. **1914-S, Extremely Fine.** Medium gold color, a trace of mint luster remains. There are several carbon spots on the obverse as well as some contact marks on the face and a few light hairlines.
- 2037. 1915, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly mint state. Sharply struck with satiny surfaces and decent luster. Light to medium yellow gold and coppery orange color. Very few hairlines or marks, but not a lot of "life" or luster due to the manner in which it was stored.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

EXTREMELY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1915-S EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



2038. 1915-S, Gem Uncirculated. This is an outstanding example of a 1915-S Eagle, undoubtedly one of the finest known specimens of this rare issue. Along with the 1908-D With Motto and 1930-S, it is one of three very important and high quality Indian Head Eagles in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Every aspect of this coin is pleasing. It is very sharply struck with full mint luster and just a slight delicate haze on the surfaces from being stored in a manila coin envelope for nearly half a century with no intermediate protection. There are a couple of very light marks on the eagle, but the reverse is otherwise extremely clean. On the obverse, there is one tiny mark on the Indian's cheek near the ear, and there are also a few very faint hairlines. The color is a superb light to medium orange gold with a few traces of copper toning near the rims including just below the date. JJP purchased this coin from Numismatic Gallery's famous Adolphe

Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 1722, for \$77.50. This price was nearly double the cataloguer's \$40 estimate whereas most of the other Indian Head Eagles in the sale brought considerably less than estimate.

The 1915-S is one of the premier rarities of the Indian Head Eagle series in terms of both population rarity (the total number of pieces known in all grades) and condition rarity. Only 59,000 pieces were struck, and since the majority of known specimens are circulated, it must have been the case that virtually all of the mintage was immediately placed into circulation. In any mint state grade, the 1915-S Eagle is rare, and most of the relatively few Uncirculated examples that are known grade lower than Choice Uncirculated. At the Choice Uncirculated level, this issue is very rare, and in Very Choice or Gem Uncirculated condition, the 1915-S is extremely rare and almost never available. The number of collectors specializing in this beautiful series far exceeds the number of available specimens of this issue in high grade, and the 1915-S seems to be on the want list of nearly every serious Indian Head Eagle collector.

- 2039. **1916-S, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now a dull blotchy orange gold color. Moderate to heavy handling marks throughout the fields.
- 2040. **1926**, **Uncirculated**. Sharply struck with full frosty mint luster and light greenish-gold and orange color. Several prominent nicks and cuts on both sides as often seen on this common issue.

FABULOUS GEM UNCIRCULATED 1930-S EAGLE





2041. 1930-S, Gem Uncirculated. This is a stunning, original example of this famous rarity. It is similar in overall quality to the fabulous Dr. Thaine B. Price coin and ranks as one of the finest known examples of the issue. It is very sharply struck with magnificent luster and color, a light to medium yellow gold with a coppery orange tint. There is an abrasion on the letters URIB of PLURIBUS on the reverse and a few minor abrasions on the chin and cheekbone. The fields on both sides are remarkably clean and free of hairlines or marks. Purchased by JJP from the same sale from which he purchased the 1909-S and 1915-S Eagles, namely, Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Menjou Collection in June 1950. This coin was offered as Lot 1724 and realized \$375, \$50 more than the cataloguer's estimate which was based on the price realized

by the Dr. Charles W. Green coin in 1949. This was almost five times the amount realized by the Gem 1915-S (offered here as Lot 2038) and six to seven times the amount realized by several Gem Matte Proofs in the sale. This shows the very high regard in which the 1930-S Eagle was held at the time of the Menjou sale in 1950.

Although it is still considered a rare issue, especially in Gem Uncirculated condition, specialists in this series now recognize that the 1930-S Eagle ranks below the top issues of the series in terms of condition rarity. However, from the standpoint of total number of pieces known, the 1930-S still ranks fourth behind only the 1933, 1907 Rolled Edge and 1920-S. Approximately 100 specimens are estimated to exist and most of them are quite high grade, the typical example grading Choice Uncirculated or Very Choice Uncirculated. True Gems, however, are very rare and it is probable that only 15 or so such specimens still exist.

2042. **1932, Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck and fully frosty. The luster is a little subdued, but the surfaces are completely original with very attractive greenish and coppery gold color. There are a few trivial marks on the

reverse in the eagle's feathers and in the field below UNUM. The obverse is very clean with only a few really trivial marks on the face and neck. This is a very attractive example of the most common issue in the series.

U.S. MEDALS

MILITARY MEDALS

- 2043. Washington Before Boston. MI-1. Copper-bronzed. Plain Edge. Uncirculated. 65 mm. Superb mahogany colored finish. There are a couple of trivial copper spots but the surfaces are otherwise mark-free and unimpaired. This is a United States Mint restrike of the late 19th Century. In his book, Medals of the United States Mint, The First Century, 1792-1892, R.W. Julian has the following the say about this medal. "There has been more interest in this medal than perhaps any other struck in this country. The original in gold was struck in Paris, apparently in the early days of 1790. According to Clain-Stefanelli, it was presented to President Washington by Thomas Jefferson on March 21, 1790. It is considered the standard medallic representation
- of Washington by which all others have been judged. The original gold medal, struck in Paris, is in the Boston Public Library."
- 2044. Colonel George Croghan. MI-12. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 65 mm. Attractive mahogany color, some light scuffs in the fields and a few tiny rim nicks. On the obverse is a uniformed bust of Col. George Croghan; on the reverse is a view of Fort Stephenson, on the Sandusky River at the mouth of Lake Erie, under siege by British soldiers and warships. Purchased by JJP in England for 13 Shillings 6 Pence which was equivalent to \$1.90.



2045. **Governor Isaac Shelby. MI-21. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated.** 65 mm. Medium mahogany color with beautiful light iridescent toning. The obverse depicts a uniformed



bust of Gov. Isaac Shelby. On the reverse is a scene of the Battle of the Thames and the death of the great Indian leader. Tecumseh.

- 2046. Governor Isaac Shelby. MI-21. White Metal. Uncirculated. 65 mm. A superb specimen with a full proof surface. Light golden toning, just a few very minor hairlines. Rare, much more so than the copper striking in the previous lot.
- 2047. Major General Zachary Taylor. MI-22. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 65 mm. Rich mahogany color with a trace of light gold and iridescent toning. Carbon spot in the field between the hair and the second A of ZACHARY in the legend. There has been an apparent attempt to remove this

carbon spot. There are also a few other tiny pinpoint carbon spots in the fields as well as a few light hairlines. The obverse depicts a narrow uniformed bust of General Taylor who subsequently became the 12th President of the United States. On the reverse is an inscription in a wreath of laurel and palm intertwined with a serpent biting its own tail. The inscription reads, "RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS JULY 16, 1846. PALO ALTO MAY 8th 1846. RESACA de la PALMA MAY 9th 1846"

NAVAL MEDALS

2048. Captain Lewis Warrington. NA-23. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 65mm. Medium mahogany color. Some minor carbon on the edge and a few carbon spots in the fields. Large die breaks on the reverse rim between K-5 and K-6 as well as between K-9 and K-11. The obverse depicts a uniformed bust of Capt. Lewis Warrington. On the reverse is a naval battle scene between the American sloop *Peacock* and the British brig *Epervier*. The battle occurred on April 29, 1814, but the date in the exergue reads March 29th. Purchased by JJP in England for 18 Shillings 6 Pence which was equivalent to \$2.60.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS



2049. United States Centennial. CM-11. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 57 mm. Superb quality with beautiful dark chocolate brown surfaces and only a few tiny pinpoint carbon spots. Far better than the normally encountered condition since many of the survivors are in AU or lower grade due to mishandling over the years. This piece comes in its original case although the case is now broken into two parts. This is one of the most beautiful of all United States medals. On the obverse is a depiction of Liberty placing wreaths on the heads of Industry and Art. The reverse shows Liberty rising with an unsheathed sword beneath thirteen stars in a glory.

- 2050. **Great Seal Centennial. CM-20.** Two examples, one struck in **bronze**, the other in **silver**, both **Uncirculated**. 62 mm. The bronze specimen is light tan in color with no reflectivity to the surfaces. The silver specimen is fully brilliant with attractive mottled purple, russet and violet toning. On the obverse is a heraldic eagle holding a scroll inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM in its beak, nearly identical to the reverse design seen on the Barber coinage of 1892-1916. (Barber designed this medal in 1882, 10 years before the introduction of his Quarter and Half Dollar designs.) On the reverse is an all-seeing eye in a glory above an unfinished pyramid dated MDCCLXXVI (1776). Two pieces.
- 2051. **Mecklenburg Centennial. CM-28.** Two specimens, one in **bronze**, the other **silver**. **Uncirculated**. 30 mm. On the obverse is a montage consisting of a beehive, a tree branch, a Liberty cap, the dates 1775 and 1875, and a pair of crossed hands, all within a glory. On the reverse is the date 20 May 1775 in a circle surrounded by the legend MECK-LENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Two pieces.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEDALS

- 2052. A group of four medals issued by the American Numismatic Society. Two of the medals commemorate the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Henry of Prussia, to New York in February 1902. The medals are silver and measure 70 mm. One has a matte finish, the other a brilliant finish. Both grade Almost Uncirculated and have light gray and gold toning. The other two medals in this lot were issued by the ANS to commemorate the visit of HRH the Prince of Wales to the United States in November 1919. One of the medals is bronze, the other silver; both have a matte finish and measure 63 mm in diameter. Four pieces.
- 2053. A pair of ANS bronze plaques. The first is a memorial plaque of Grover Cleveland and measures 78 mm by 88 mm. This plaque was manufactured by the Medallic Art Co. from a design by J.F. Roin. Extremely Fine. This plaque depicts Grover Cleveland seated in a chair facing right. The other plaque is a memorial plaque issued by the American Numismatic Society for John Pierpont Morgan in 1913. The plaque measures 89 mm by 73 mm and grades Very Fine; it is also slightly corroded. It was purchased from a Hans Schulman sale, 2/58, Lot 1123, for \$7.50, the same price paid for the Cleveland memorial plaque. Both plaques were issued on the occasion of the subject's death, Cleveland in 1908, Morgan in 1913. Two pieces.

2054. A group of five medals as follows: (1) 1898 ANS medal commemorating the consolidation of the municipalities about the Port of New York. Bronze. Uncirculated. 64 mm. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, January 1957, Lot 452, for \$7.50; (2) 1908 ANS Archer Milton Huntington medal commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the American Numismatic Society. Bronze. Uncirculated. 66 mm. Purchased from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of January 1957, Lot 455, for \$7.50; (3) 1909 Hudson-Fulton ANS medal commemorating the discovery of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson in 1609 and the first use of steam navigation on the Hudson River in 1807 by Robert Fulton. White metal. Uncirculated. 51 mm; (4) 1917 Joseph Hodges Choate medal. Silver. Uncirculated. 64 mm. Matte surface. Attractive medium multicolored toning; and (5) 1919 ANS medal commemorating the Peace of Versailles. Silver. Almost Uncirculated. 63 mm. Matte surface, medium gray and gold toning. Five pieces.

WASHINGTON MEDALS





2055. Washington. Masonic. Baker-304. Uncirculated, proof-like. 34 mm. Superb violet and blue toning. This medal commemorates the visit of "Bro. Geo. Washington, Commander-in-Chief" to Solomon's Lodge, No. 1, Po'keepsie, N.Y. on December 27, 1782. Rare. Purchased by JJP for \$5.50, source unknown. Earlier, from the famous Allison W. Jackman sale conducted by Henry Chapman, 6/18, Lot 280, where it realized \$1.10.

SO-CALLED DOLLARS

2056. A group of three So-Called Dollars including the following: (1) U.S. Centennial. HK-21. CM-10. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 37 mm. Rich mahogany color; (2) U.S. Centennial. HK-22. CM-10. Copper, gilt. Uncirculated, prooflike. 37 mm. Purchased from a Barney Bluestone sale, 9/16/43, Lot 576, for \$2; and (3) Philadelphia Art Gallery Centennial, 1876. Silver. Extremely Fine. 42 mm. Unlisted in the Hibler-Kappen reference which lists only non-precious metal strikes of this design. Type of HK-83. Fully prooflike with medium to deep blue and gold toning. Three pieces.

2057. A group of nine So-Called Dollars including the following: (1) Trans-Mississippi Exposition, 1898. HK-283. Brass. Uncirculated. 34 mm. Prooflike, iridescent toning. Purchased by JJP for \$3.50; (2) Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904. HK-299. Silver. Uncirculated. 34 mm. Attractive toning. Purchased by JJP for \$5.50; (3) Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904. HK-303. Bronze. Uncirculated. 34 mm. Golden brown color. Purchased by JJP for \$0.50; (4) Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition, 1907. HK-344. Silver. Extremely Fine. 34 mm; (5) Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition, 1907. HK-347. Gilt. Uncirculated. 34 mm; (6) Hudson-Fulton Celebration, 1909. HK-369, the Hendrik Hudson Daalder. Silver. Uncirculated, matte surface. 38 mm. Medium gray and gold toning. Noted in Hibler-Kappen as, "Very rare. Less than 75 struck."; (7) Panama-Pacific Exposition, 1915. HK-400. Bronze. Uncirculated. 37 mm. Almost full mint red, several dark areas and spots; (8) Panama-Pacific Exposition, 1915. HK-406. Bronze. Uncirculated. 38 mm. Light iridescent toning, some corrosion on rim; and (9) Panama-California Exposition, 1915-1916. HK-428. Gilt. Almost Uncirculated. 34 mm. Some light corrosion. Nine pieces.

RARE MONTANA DOLLAR

Less Than 100 Specimens Known





- 2058. Montana Dollar, 1933. HK-820. Silver. Uncirculated. 40 mm. Fully brilliant with just a hint of light toning at the periphery. The Hibler-Kappen reference states that the, "Actual number of pieces issued cannot be established, but many medals were melted and most authorities agree that there are substantially fewer than 100 specimens extant today. Very rare."
- 2059. A group of three Pedley-Ryan Dollars including the following: (1) HK-824. Silver. Almost Uncirculated. 38 mm. Light golden toning. H-K notes, "Fewer than 85 pieces were struck, all on Jan. 6, 1933. Very rare."; (2) HK-825. Silver. Uncirculated. 38 mm. Semi-prooflike. H-K notes, "Not more than 500 issued, beginning Jan. 7, 1933. Very scarce."; and (3) another HK-825. Silver. Uncirculated. 38 mm. Semi-prooflike. Prominently reengraved on the obverse at RYAN & CO. and DENVER. Three pieces.

2060. A group of four Colorado "Century of Progress" Dollars, 1933, all different. Included in this lot are HK-867, HK-868, HK-869, and HK-870. All four pieces are silver and measure 40 mm in diameter. They are all Uncirculated. HK-867 is rare with only 300 issued. HK-868 and HK-869 are both

very scarce; just 2,000 were struck of each type and most were melted. Only 700 were actually issued of HK-868. HK-870 is common and reportedly 10,000 pieces were struck, although many were undoubtedly subsequently melted. Four pieces.

MISCELLANEOUS MEDALS

2061. A pair of medals including the following: (1) Yorktown Centennial, 1881. Copper-bronzed. Uncirculated. 50 mm. Light iridescent toning. Moderate carbon spots on the obverse, lighter ones on the reverse. The obverse design features conjoined busts of Washington and Lafayette and is virtually identical to the design later used by Charles Barber on the 1900 Lafayette Commemorative Dollar. The reverse has a scene of the surrender at Yorktown by the British on October 19, 1781; and (2) Palmetto Regiment, South Carolina. Silver. Almost Uncirculated, prooflike. 47 mm. Inscribed with the name James Romedy. Beautiful toning in shades of blue, violet, and reddish-gold. Two pieces.

2062. A group of three medals including the following: (1) Franklin Delano Roosevelt medal by John R. Sinnock. Silver. Uncirculated. 76 mm. Portrait of FDR on the obverse, heraldic eagle standing on shield and fasces on reverse. Minor problem on edge, possibly serial number removed; (2) Official Harry S. Truman Inaugural medal, 1949. Bronze. MacNeil HST 1949-3, Dusterberg OIM 12B 51. Bronze. Choice Uncirculated with a few spots of tarnish on the reverse. 51 mm. One of only 7,500 pieces struck. Very scarce in this condition; and (3) Hawaii Statehood medal, 1959. Silver. Uncirculated. 63 mm. Gray and gold toning. Three pieces.

U.S. PAPER MONEY

UNCUT SHEETS OF SMALL SIZE NOTES



2063. Uncut sheet of 18 1935 \$1 Silver Certificates. Friedberg-1614. Series 1935-E. Fresh colors, a little ragged along the edges but no tears. Numerous internal creases on the notes. This sheet has a slightly wider margin at the top

than on the other three sides. By uncut sheet standards, this sheet is relatively common, but it is still a scarce and desirable item.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$5 NOTES

The Genesee Valley National Bank of Geneseo, NY



2064. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$5 National Bank Notes. Type 1. FR-1800-1. S-2022. Charter No. 886, The Genesee Valley National Bank of Geneseo, New York. Serial Nos. A000001A through F000001A. Fairly broad margins. Minor tear on the top note above the first C in CURRENCY. Lower right corner fold on the bottom note. Crisp with fresh colors. Curled from being in the tube mailer in which the sheet was sent by Stack's to JJP in October 1963. Internal creases in the 3rd, 4th and 5th notes. Also, creases at the left side and some discoloration on the bottom note. The only note without noticeable problems is B, i.e. the 2nd note from the top, and even it has a few minor creases. According to Martin Gengerke, this is the only known sheet reported on this bank. This sheet was purchased by JIP from Stack's George Walton sale in October 1963, Lot 1707.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$5 NOTES

The Livingston Manor National Bank of Livingston Manor, NY



2065. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$5 National Bank Notes. Type 2. FR-1800-2. S-2022. Charter No. 10043, The Livingston Manor National Bank of Livingston Manor, New York. Serial Nos. A000001 through A000006. Crisp, fresh colors. Not folded, no noticeable internal creases. A little closer at the left than the right, but also close at the top right as well. This is a very attractive, high quality sheet, probably the highest quality of all the uncut sheets in the Pittman Collection. Scarce bank and the only known sheet on the bank. Formerly in the Julian S. Marks Collection sold by Abe Kosoff in November 1971.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$10 NOTES

The First National Bank of Brockport, NY



2066. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$10 National Bank Notes. Type 1. FR-1801-1. S-2073. Charter No. 382, The First National Bank of Brockport, New York. Serial Nos. A000001A through F000001A. A little close at the left. No tears, but some heavy internal creases, especially on notes 4 and 5. Crisp with bright, fresh colors. According to Martin Gengerke, "This is the only sheet reported on the bank - the \$20 sheet is known to have been cut". Purchased by JJP from the George Walton sale in October 1963 as Lot 1725.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$10 NOTES

The Lyons National Bank of Lyons, NY



2067. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$10 National Bank Notes. Type 1. FR-1801-1. S-2073. Charter No. 1027, The Lyons National Bank of Lyons, New York. Serial Nos. A000001A through F000001A. Bright, fresh colors. The bottom edge is a bit ragged. Close at the left and at the bottom. Pencil notation in the margin of note 5. This sheet has not been folded. According to Martin Gengerke, this \$10 sheet is the only one known on the bank. Acquired from Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian S. Marks Collection in November 1971.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$10 NOTES

The First National Bank of Silver Creek, NY



2068. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$10 National Bank Notes. Type 1. FR-1801-1. S-2073. Charter No. 10159, The First National Bank of Silver Creek, New York. Serial Nos. A000001A through F000001A. Folded in half between notes 3 and 4. Close at the bottom left and top right. Very fresh and bright. Several prominent internal creases, especially on the 1st note. According to Martin Gengerke, this \$10 sheet is the only \$10 sheet known on the bank; however, the No. 1 \$5 sheet is also known. JJP purchased this uncut sheet from Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian S. Marks Collection on November 9, 1971.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$10 NOTES

The Farmers National Bank of McAlisterville, PA



2069. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$10 National Bank Notes. Type 2. FR-1801-2. S-2079. Charter No. 9526, The Farmers National Bank of McAlisterville, Pennsylvania. Serial Nos. A000001 through A000006. Folded between all the notes, the heaviest fold between notes 3 and 4. The colors are bright and fresh and the notes are crisp. Small internal creases on most notes. Two tiny holes in the bottom note above and to the left of the T in TEN on the face of the note. Martin Gengerke states, "I know of six sheets on the bank: \$10 Type 1, No. 1; \$20 Type 1, No. 1; \$10 Type 2, No. 1 (the sheet offered here); \$10 Type 2, No. 7; \$10 Type 2, No. 13; \$20 Type 2, No. 1 (the sheet offered in the next lot). The serial numbers suggest that a few more may exist (at least for the Type 2 \$10). Outstanding for the bank is \$40,000 - on the low side for small size notes. A scarcer bank." Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian S. Marks Collection in November 1971.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 1 OF \$20 NOTES

The Farmers National Bank of McAlisterville, PA



2070. Uncut sheet No. 1 of six \$20 National Bank Notes. Type 2. FR-1802-2. S-2130. Charter No. 9526, The Farmers National Bank of McAlisterville, Pennsylvania. Serial Nos. A000001 through A000006. The companion No. 1 sheet to the \$10 sheet in the preceding lot. This is the only Type 2 \$20 sheet known on this bank and one of just six sheets known in total. Folded between all of the notes, the fold actually through the lower portion of the top note. There is a pin hole in the margin between notes 1 and 2 and a tear with tape repair on the bottom of note 6. There is a pencil notation in the margin between notes 5 and 6. Some of the notes have minor internal creases. The colors are bright and fresh and the sheet is crisp. Obtained along with a number of these sheets from the Kosoff sale of the Julian S. Marks Collection, November 9, 1971.

UNCUT SHEET NO. 2 OF \$20 NOTES

The Chappaqua National Bank of Chappaqua, NY



2071. Uncut sheet No. 2 of six \$20 National Bank Notes. Type 1. FR-1802-1. S-2124. Charter No. 12746, The Chappaqua National Bank of Chappaqua, New York. Serial Nos. A000002A through F000002A. This sheet has been folded in half between notes 3 and 4, the fold not affecting the notes. There is a slight yellowing of the colors, but the notes are still quite fresh and crisp. There are some minor internal creases, but none is particularly severe. Close at the upper right and lower left. According to Martin Gengerke, the No.2 \$5 sheet is also known, but the No. 2 \$10 sheet has been cut into a pair and some singles. Gengerke also states, "There are very few records of public sale for any note from this bank, and all are in the last three years." Like most of the uncut sheets offered here, this sheet was purchased by JJP from the Julian S. Marks Collection sale conducted by Abe Kosoff, 11/9/71.

LARGE SIZE UNITED STATES NOTES



2072. \$1, FR-16. Series of 1862. Chittenden-Spinner. Extremely Fine. Fairly bright and fresh with just a little yellowing. Close at the top only. Light evidence of handling. Scarce this nice.

CRISP UNCIRCULATED 1869 \$5 NOTE



- 2073. **\$5, FR-64.** Series of 1869. Allison-Spinner. **Uncirculated.** Well centered with fairly wide, even margins. A very bright and fresh example of this colorful note that will be called Choice Uncirculated or better by many. A very scarce and popular note, especially so this nice.
- 2074. A pair of \$5 "Woodchopper" notes. The first is FR-90, Series of 1907, Elliott-White. Almost Uncirculated. Bright and fresh. Vertical center fold only. Close cut at the top, particularly at the left. The second note is FR-91, Series of 1907, Speelman-White. Extremely Fine. Fairly bright and fresh although not quite as much so as the FR-90 in this lot. Margins slightly close at top and bottom although they are clear of the frame line. Two notes.

Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.

LARGE SIZE SILVER CERTIFICATES

- 2075. A group of three \$1 Silver Certificates, Series of 1899, including FR-228, FR-230 and FR-233. The notes grade from Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated and are bright and fresh with only minor evidence of folding and handling. Three notes.
- 2076. A group of seven large size \$1 notes, including five Silver Certificates, all Series of 1923, one 1917 Legal Tender Note and one 1923 United States Note. The Silver Certificates consist of three examples of FR-237 and two notes of FR-238. Grades range from Very Good to Extremely Fine. The 1917 Legal Tender Note is FR-39 and grades Very Good while the 1923 United States Note is FR-40 and also grades Very Good. Seven notes.
- 2077. A pair of Silver Certificates: (1) \$1, FR-232. Series of 1899. Almost Uncirculated. Bright and fresh. Close at the top. A little rough at the right margin on the face; and (2) \$2, FR-255. Series of 1899. Very Fine. Two notes.

LARGE SIZE NATIONAL CURRENCY AND FEDERAL RESERVE BANK NOTES

2078. A pair of notes: (1) \$1, FR-713. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Almost Uncirculated. Crisp and fresh, just minor evidence of handling; and (2) \$5, FR-600. S-1345. Third issue. Charter No. 8810, The First National Bank of Mansfield, Pennsylvania. Fine. Very wide margins at the left and right. Two notes.



2079. **\$2, FR-387.** S-90. First charter. Original series. The First National Bank of Newport, New Hampshire. **Fine.** Very close at the bottom, just barely into the design. Scarce bank and state. The popular "Lazy 2" design.

- 2080. A pair of \$10 notes including the following: (1) \$10, FR-490. S-493. Second charter. Charter No. 2400, The National Herkimer County Bank of Little Falls, New York. Extremely Fine. Small tear in lower left margin; and (2) \$10, FR-613. S-1390. Third charter, first issue. Charter No. 1198, The Tanners National Bank of Catskill, New York. Fine. A little ragged along top border. Another scarce bank. Two notes.
- 2081. A pair of \$10 notes, both from the First National Bank of Wayland, New York, Charter No. 5196. (1) \$10, FR-545. S-775. Second charter period. Dateback. Very Fine. Three heavy vertical folds. Fresh and nice for the grade; and (2) \$10, FR-632. Extremely Fine. Very faint vertical folds. Crisp and fresh. Two notes.
- 2082. A group of four \$20 National Bank Notes including the following: (1) \$20, FR-581. S-1081. Second charter period. Greenback or "valueback". Charter No. 5196, The First National Bank of Wayland, New York. Fine to Very Fine. Some discoloration at the border; (2) \$20, FR-639. S-1549. Third charter period. Dateback. Charter No. 7362. The First National Bank of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, the hometown of JJP's youth. Good. Significant tear in upper right corner but the note is intact. A rare note from a rare bank and state; (3) \$20, FR-642. S-1603. Third charter period, second issue. Charter No. 6809, The State National Bank of North Tonawanda, New York. Fair. Numerous tears at the borders, especially at the top; (4) \$20, FR-661. S-1655. Third charter period, third issue. Charter No. 12538, The National Bank of Rochester, New York, the hometown of JIP's adulthood. Very Good. Stains on back. Four notes.

LARGE SIZE FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES

2083. A group of five large size Federal Reserve Bank Notes from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York City, Series of 1914. This lot contains three \$5 notes including FR-848, Almost Uncirculated; FR-849, Very Fine; and FR-851, Extremely Fine. The lot also contains one \$10 note, FR-911, Fine to Very Fine, with a blue ink stamping on the back. The final note in the lot is a \$100 note, FR-1091, Fine to Very Fine, with four pin holes. Five notes.

LARGE SIZE GOLD CERTIFICATES

2084. A pair of large size Gold Certificates, Series of 1922: (1) \$10, FR-1173. Very Fine. Bright fresh colors. Top border a little rough; and (2) \$20, FR-1187. Very Good to Fine. Ragged at top with several tiny pieces missing. Two notes.

CRISP UNCIRCULATED 1922 \$10 GOLD CERTIFICATE



2085. **\$10, FR-1173. Uncirculated.** Series of 1922. Very crisp with bright, fresh colors. The margin at the bottom on the face is a little narrow. A beautiful and colorful note.

SMALL SIZE UNITED STATES NOTES

- 2086. A group of seven small denomination United States Notes including one \$1 note and six \$2 notes. The \$1 note is FR-1500, Series 1928. The six \$2 notes consist of three consecutively numbered pairs of FR-1505, FR-1507 and FR-1508, Series 1928-D, 1928-F and 1928-G respectively. All of the notes are crisp Uncirculated. Seven notes.
- 2087. A group of 30 Uncirculated \$2 notes including the following: (1) FR-1509, Series 1953. Ten consecutively numbered notes; (2) FR-1514, Series 1963-A. Ten consecutively numbered notes; (3) FR-1509, Series 1953. Four notes; (4) FR-1510, Series 1953-A. Three notes; and (5) FR-1513, Series 1963. Three notes. All of the notes are crisp Uncirculated. 30 notes.
- 2088. A mixed lot of circulated small size \$2 and \$5 United States Notes including the following: 15 mixed \$2 notes from Series 1928, 1953 and 1963 plus five mixed \$5 notes from Series 1928 and 1963. The notes grade from Fine to Extremely Fine. The lot contains two star notes, FR-1510* and FR-1536*. 20 notes.
- 2089. A mixed lot of 14 small size \$5 United States Notes including the following: FR-1528, FR-1529, FR-1531, consecutive pair of FR-1532, consecutive pair of FR-1536, a second consecutive pair of FR-1536, two FR-1533, FR-1535, and two FR-1536. All of the notes are Uncirculated. FR-1529 is moderately scarce. 14 notes.
- 2090. A pair of \$100 United States Notes. One note is **FR-1550**, Series 1966, the other **FR-1551**, Series 1966-A. Both notes are **Choice Uncirculated** and are bright, fresh and very crisp. Two notes.

2091. Similar to preceding. A pair of \$100 United States Notes, FR-1550 and FR-1551, Series 1966 and 1966-A. Both notes are Uncirculated, although the FR-1551 has two tiny pin holes in the top border. Two notes.

SMALL SIZE SILVER CERTIFICATES

- 2092. A group of seven \$1 Silver Certificate star notes, FR-1611*, Series 1935-B. Six of the notes are consecutively numbered. All seven notes are Uncirculated, most Choice. Seven notes.
- 2093. A large bulk lot of 71 \$1 Silver Certificates consisting of notes of Series 1928, 1934, 1935 and 1957. Also included is one Hawaii Emergency note, FR-2300, and two North Africa Emergency \$1 notes, FR-2306. Most of the notes are Uncirculated, but a few grade as low as Good or Very Good. A few star notes are in the lot as well. Included are several small runs of consecutive serial numbers in the 1935-B, 1935-E and 1957 series. 71 notes.
- 2094. A mixed group of 21 small size Silver Certificates including 17 \$5 notes and four \$10 notes. Included in the lot are the following: FR-1650, FR-1651 (two notes), FR-1652, FR-1653, FR-1654 (eight notes), FR-1655*, FR-1656 (two notes), FR-2307, FR-1701, FR-1705 and FR-2309 (two notes). The \$5 notes grade from Extremely Fine to Uncirculated, mostly the latter, and the \$10 notes grade from Very Good to Extremely Fine. 21 notes.
- 2095. A pair of crisp Uncirculated notes issued for use by the armed forces in Europe and North Africa. The first is a \$5 Silver Certificate, FR-2307, Series 1934-A, crisp Choice Uncirculated. The second note is a \$10 Silver Certificate, FR-2309, Series 1934-A, Choice Uncirculated. Two notes.

SMALL SIZE NATIONAL CURRENCY AND FEDERAL RESERVE BANK NOTES

2096. A group of three notes including the following: (1) \$5, FR-1800-2. S-2023. Type 2. Charter No. 2135, The Commercial National Bank of Charlotte, North Carolina. Almost Uncirculated. Bright and fresh; (2) \$5, FR-1800-1. S-2022. Type 1. Charter No. 12208, The First National Bank of Kenmore, New York. Extremely Fine; and (3) \$100, FR-1890E. The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Virginia. Fine. Tear at top. Three notes.

- 2097. A group of five \$10 National Bank Notes including the following: (1) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2074. Type 1. Charter No. 3811, The First National Bank of Durham, North Carolina. Uncirculated. Small internal crease, stain in corners; (2) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2074. Type 1. Charter No. 7536, The Citizens National Bank of Gastonia, North Carolina. Very Fine to Extremely Fine; (3) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2073. Type 1. Charter No. 2272, The National Bank of Cortland, New York. Very Good; (4) \$10, FR-1801-2. S-2073. Type 2. Charter No. 13330, The First National Bank and Trust Co. of Rochester, New York. Very Good; and (5) \$10, FR-1860-G. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Illinois. Choice Uncirculated. Five notes.
- 2098. A group of five \$10 National Bank Notes including the following: (1) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2073. Type 1. Charter No. 2376, The Exchange National Bank of Olean, New York. Uncirculated; (2) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2071. Type 1. Charter No. 8500, The Pitman National Bank and Trust Co. Pitman, New Jersey. Uncirculated; (3) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2073. Type 1. Charter No. 2370, The Chase National Bank of New York City. Uncirculated; and (4) \$10, FR-1801-2. S-2076. Type 2. Charter No. 2479, The Second National Bank of Warren, Ohio. Two notes from this bank, both crisp Uncirculated. Five notes.
- 2099. A pair of \$10 National Bank Notes from the state of New York, both Type 1. (1) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2073. Type 1. Charter No. 8453, The National Chautauqua County Bank of Jamestown, New York. Low serial number D000002A. Choice Uncirculated; and (2) \$10, FR-1801-1. S-2073. Type 1. Charter No. 2272, The National Bank of Cortland, New York. Uncirculated. Two notes.
- 2100. A group of three \$20 National Bank Notes, all FR-1802-1. S-2124. Type 1. Charter No. 349, The First National Bank of Newark, New York. Low serial numbers E000615A, F000618A and F000619A. All notes are Almost Uncirculated and are fresh and bright. Two of the notes have tiny corner folds. Scarce bank. Three notes.
- 2101. A group of five \$20 National Bank Notes including the following: (1) \$20, FR-1802-1. S-2124. Type 1. Charter No. 12352, Liberty National Bank and Trust Co. of New York, New York. Fine; (2) \$20, FR-1802-1. S-2130. Type 1. Charter No. 685, The Farmers Deposit National Bank of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Good to Very Good; (3) \$20, FR-1802-1. S-2124. Type 1. Charter No. 6964, Lackawanna National Bank, Lackawanna, New York. Fine; (4) \$20, FR-1802-1. S-2130. Type 1. Charter No. 7409, The Peoples National Bank of Zelienople, Pennsylvania. Very Fine; and (5) \$20, FR-1802-2. S-2124. Type 2. Charter No. 5178, The First National Bank of Addison, New York. Fine. Rare bank. Five notes.
- 2102. A complete set of Series 1929 Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank Notes, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100; FR-1850-D, FR-1860-D, FR-1870-D, FR-1880-D and FR-1890-D respectively. All five notes are crisp, bright and fresh and grade Almost Uncirculated or Uncirculated. Several have tiny corner folds. Five notes.

SMALL SIZE FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE

- 2103. A group of three crisp \$5 Federal Reserve Notes, Series 1934-A, including FR-1957-B, FR-1957-C and FR-1957-H*. All notes are crisp Uncirculated. The St. Louis star note is quite scarce. Three notes.
- 2104. A group of six Federal Reserve Notes of mixed denominations including three \$5 notes, one \$10 note and two \$20 notes, all crisp **Uncirculated.** The \$5 notes are **FR-1962-B**, **FR-1962-G** and **FR-1963-B**; the \$10 note is **FR-2011-F** and the two \$20 notes are **FR-2059-B** and **FR-2061-B***. Six notes.
- 2105. A group of 11 \$10 Federal Reserve Notes from Series of 1928 and 1934 including the following: FR-2000-C, FR-2001-B, FR-2002-D, FR-2006-A (seven notes); and FR-2008-L. Grades range from Fine to Uncirculated. 11 notes.
- 2106. A group of 18 \$20 Federal Reserve Notes, Series 1928-B, FR-2052-B. Several consecutive serial number pairs are included in this lot. A few notes have light creases, but all the notes are either Almost Uncirculated or Uncirculated. 18 notes.
- 2107. A group of 11 circulated \$20 Federal Reserve Notes from the 1928 and 1934 Series including the following: FR-2050-B (two notes), FR-2051-F, FR-2052-B (three notes), FR-2052-C, FR-2054-F, FR-2056-A and FR-2056-G (two notes). Grades range from Very Good to Almost Uncirculated with most of the notes Very Fine or better. 11 notes.
- 2108. A group of four \$20 Federal Reserve Notes including the following: FR-2055-G, FR-2056-B, FR-2056-H, and FR-2305, the Hawaii Emergency note issued after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The first three notes are all crisp Uncirculated, the Hawaii note is Very Fine. Four notes.
- 2109. A group of four high denomination notes including two \$50 notes, FR-2100-C and FR-2101-B, and two \$100 notes, FR-2155-D and FR-2155-F. The four notes grade from Very Good to Fine. Four notes.
- 2110. A group of four \$100 Federal Reserve Notes including FR-2150-G, FR-2151-A, FR-2151-B, and FR-2152-E. All of the notes grade Very Fine. Four notes.
- 2111. A group of three \$100 Federal Reserve Notes including FR-2150-D, FR-2152-D and FR-2153-B. All notes are bright and fresh and grade Almost Uncirculated or Uncirculated. Three notes.
- 2112. A group of three \$100 Federal Reserve Notes including FR-2151-J, FR-2152-K and FR-2154-I. All of the notes grade Extremely Fine. Three notes.
- 2113. A group of three consecutively numbered \$100 Federal Reserve Notes, Series 1934-B, **FR-2154-D**. All three notes are crisp **Choice Uncirculated**. Relatively scarce with only 61,200 notes released. Three notes.

SMALL SIZE GOLD CERTIFICATES

2114. A group of eight small size Gold Certificates including five \$10 notes (FR-2400), two \$20 notes (FR-2402) and one \$50 note (FR-2404). All of the notes grade Very Good or Fine. Eight notes.

AUTOGRAPHED NOTES

- 2115. A mixed group of 14 autographed notes including ten \$1 Silver Certificates, three \$1 Federal Reserve Notes and one \$5 Federal Reserve Note. All of the notes grade Almost Uncirculated or Uncirculated. Three of the 1935-E \$1 Silver Certificates are signed by F. Cardinal Spellman. Three Series 1957 \$1 Silver Certificates are signed by Eva Adams, former Director of the Mint, as are two 1957-B \$1 Silver Certificates and the Series 1963 \$5 Federal Reserve Note. The three \$1 Federal Reserve Notes are signed by J.A. Conlon. One Series 1957-A \$1 Silver Certificate is signed by E.J. Hilbert and one Series 1935-A \$1 Silver Certificate has a number of signatures. 14 notes.
- 2116. A collection of 10 notes hand signed by John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury, directly above his printed signature on the notes. These notes were signed during a visit to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, probably sometime during the late 1940's or early 1950's since John Snyder was Secretary of the Treasury during the Harry S. Truman administration. Included are the following notes: Two Series 1935-C \$1 Silver Certificates; two consecutively numbered 1928-F \$2 United States Notes; two 1928-E \$5 United States Notes; two consecutively numbered 1934-C \$5 Federal Reserve Notes; one 1934-C \$10 Federal Reserve Note; and one 1934-C \$20 Federal Reserve Note. All of the Federal Reserve Notes are from the New York Federal Reserve Bank and are Uncirculated with bright, fresh colors. Ten notes.

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

- 2117. A group of 12 circulated Fractional Currency notes in small denominations of 3 Cents, 5 Cents and 10 Cents. Included are the following notes: FR-1226, FR-1230, FR-1232, FR-1236, FR-1238, FR-1242, FR-1244 (mounting damage on back), FR-1255, FR-1258, and FR-1265 (three notes). The notes grade from Fine to Extremely Fine. 12 notes.
- 2118. A group of nine medium denomination Fractional Currency notes consisting of two 15 Cent notes and seven 25 Cent notes. Included in the group are the following Friedberg numbers: 1268, 1269, 1281, 1285, 1294 (two notes), 1303, 1308 and 1309. One of the FR-1294 notes grades only Good and the FR-1303 and FR-1308 notes are Uncirculated; the other notes grade from Fine to Extremely Fine. Nine notes.

2119. A group of eight circulated 50 Cent Fractional Currency notes including the following Friedberg numbers: 1312, 1317, 1339, 1360, 1374, 1376, 1379 and 1380. The notes range in grade from Fine to Extremely Fine. Eight notes.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL CURRENCY

- 2120. A group of 10 Colonial and Continental Currency notes including the following items: (1) \$40 Continental Currency note, authorized by a resolution of Congress on September 26, 1778. Very Good; (2) \$5 Continental Currency note, authorized January 14, 1779. Fine; (3) 5 Shillings Delaware note, January 1, 1776. Very Good to Fine with a curled left edge; (4) \$1 note from Maryland, December 7, 1775. About Good (taped); (5) 2/3 Dollar note from Maryland, December 7, 1775. Fine; (6) \$4 Massachusetts note, May 5, 1780. Hole cancel. Very Fine; (7) 12 Shilling note from New Jersey, March 25, 1776. Very Fine; (8) 50 Shilling note from Pennsylvania, October 1, 1773. Fine to Very Fine; (9) 10 Shilling note from Rhode Island, May 1786. Fine to Very Fine; and (10) 10 Pound South Carolina note, June 1, 1775. Good, torn and tattered around the border. 10 notes.
- 2121. A pair of North Carolina Currency notes including the following: (1) \$10, April 2,1776. Peacock design. This note would grade Fine but the corners have been cut and a small piece is missing from the bottom margin. Very rare note; and (2) \$25, May 10, 1780. Uncirculated. Wide margins; bright except for a slight discoloration at upper border, especially the upper left corner. A rare note in high grade. Purchased by JJP from an unknown auction as Lot 1011 for \$7.25. Two notes.

MORMON PAPER MONEY

2122. A pair of canceled checks including the following: (1) A check drawn on Wells Fargo and Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 21, 1878, in the amount of \$19.80. Paid to the order of A. Gould and signed by Selah Chamberlain. The check is stamped and cut canceled and has been reinforced on the back with tape over the cut cancels. There is a cancel (by pen) on a U.S. Inter. Rev. 2 Cent stamp on the face of the check. Purchased by JJP for \$9.50; and (2) A check drawn on Bank of Idaho, J.T. Morgan and Company, Bankers, to Deseret National Bank, Salt Lake City, Utah. The check is dated May 30, 1884, and made out to Geo. A. Lowe in the amount of \$35.85. It has several holes and the appropriate cancellations. Purchased by JJP for \$35. Two pieces.

2123. A group of six Bishop's General Store House notes (scrip) including the following: (1) 5 Cents, brown. January 1st, 1896; (2) 10 Cents, red. April 1, 1898; (3) 5 Cents (three notes), blue. October 1, 1898; and (4) 10 Cents, blue. October 1, 1898. All notes except the first are ink stamp canceled. The 5 Cent brown note has not been canceled and grades Very Fine with a tiny tear in the top margin and some discoloration. The other notes are Almost Uncirculated or Uncirculated. JJP paid \$25 in the early 1970's for the 5 Cent brown note and \$15 each for the other notes. The 10 Cent red note was, "Payable in meat", while the others were, "Payable in produce and merchandise". Six notes.

VERY RARE DESERET CURRENCY ASSOCIATION \$2 NOTE



2124. Deseret Currency Association \$2 note dated October 9, 1858. Extremely Fine. "WILL PAY THE BEARER \$2 IN LIVE STOCK ON PRESENTATION OF \$100. GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY". Printed signature of Brigham Young, Pres. A small piece of tape adheres to the upper left corner of the back of this uniface note. There is a microscopic tear in the top margin. The note is further printed, "GOOD ONLY IN THIS TERRITORY". This is a very rare note for which JJP paid \$450 sometime in the early 1970's.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, known worldwide as the "Mormon" Church, was founded by the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. along with five others, as required by New York state law, in western New York in the spring of 1830. Brigham Young, whose printed signature is on this note, was a young carpenter from Mendon, New York. Young and Sidney Rigdon of Kirtland, Ohio, became early members in the Church. The Mormon paper money in the Pittman Collection, including the scrip, the \$2 note offered in this lot, and the rare Kirtland Safety Society Bank notes offered subsequently, were obtained by JJP from a long-time member, now deceased, of the ANA. The previous owner was also a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and told JJP that he was a direct descendant of Brigham Young.

- 2125. A group of three small denomination notes from the General Tithing Store House, Salt Lake City, Utah, issued by the presiding Bishop's office and dated October 1st., 1889. The three notes are as follows: (1) 5 Cents, Fine. "GOOD ONLY FOR MEAT AT THE GENERAL TITHING STORE HOUSE". The denomination in the upper right hand corner is shown as ".05 C", which is obviously incorrect since this actually means 5/100th of a cent. Apparently, the printer (clearly not an accountant or mathematician) could not make up his mind between using dollar designations (\$.05) or cent designations (5 Cents) and so erred by using a hybrid of the two. Purchased by JJP for \$25; (2) 10 Cents, Fine to Very Fine. Similar to the preceding and, "GOOD ONLY FOR MEAT AT THE GENERAL TITHING STORE HOUSE". Here the printer has it correct and writes the denomination in the upper right hand corner as 10 C without the erroneous decimal point. JJP paid \$27.50 for this note; and (3) 25 Cents, Good. Tears in margin, stained, mounting on reverse. Earlier date of issue than the preceding, Sep. 30, 1888 (?). This note was, "GOOD ONLY FOR MERCHAN-DISE AND PRODUCE". A very scarce note, much more so than the preceding two. Purchased by JJP for \$27.50. Three notes.
- 2126. **Salt Lake City Corporation, \$1 note.** "PAYABLE IN U.S. CURRENCY". Dated June 9, 1868, at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. **Very Good.** Serial number 4288. Stained, heavily creased and wrinkled.

EXTREMELY RARE KIRTLAND SAFETY SOCIETY ANTI BANKING CO. \$3 NOTE



2127. The Kirtland Safety Society (anti)Bank(ing) Co., \$3 note dated 1837. Kirtland, Ohio. Very Fine. Serial number 970. Signatures Williams and Whitney. Corner creases, some staining. Extremely rare note. Purchased by JJP for \$225 in the early 1970's from a direct descendant of Brigham Young.

VERY RARE KIRTLAND SAFETY SOCIETY BANK \$5 NOTE



2128. The Kirtland Safety Society Bank, \$5 note dated 10 Feb. 1837. Kirtland, Ohio. Almost Uncirculated. Actual ink signatures of Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Church, and Sidney Rigdon, an early member from Kirtland, Ohio. Serial number 1038. A very rare note in outstanding condition.

VERY RARE KIRTLAND SAFETY SOCIETY \$10 NOTE



2129. The Kirtland Safety Society, \$10 note dated 11 Feb. 1837. Kirtland, Ohio. Very Fine. Serial number 1040. Actual ink signatures of Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder of the Mormon Church, and Sidney Rigdon, an early member from Kirtland, Ohio. Well centered, frame line clear all around, several vertical creases. A very rare and historically important note.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

2130. An assortment of military notes from the 19th Century including the following: (1) 5 Cent note from Scott's 900 United States Cavalry, Almost Uncirculated; (2) 10 Cent note from Scott's 900 United States Cavalry, Almost Uncirculated. Two tiny stamp hinges on the back; (3) another, Fine; (4) 25 Cents Sutler to the 1st note, Almost Uncirculated. Four small hole cancels; (5) 25 Cent exchange certificate, 2nd Regiment New York Heavy Artillery. Uncirculated, but with two small stamp hinges on back; and (6) Two New Mexico Sutler promissory notes, both in the sum of \$4 payable to William Kendall, Post Sutler of Fort Columbus. One is dated September 9, 1846, the other September 5, 1846. One is signed by James Henesy, the other by William Drew. Both notes are as new with minor stains. Accompanied by a contemporary piece of paper inscribed, "Notes of recruits transferred to Company H 20th Dragoons 30 Sep. 1846". The pair was purchased by JJP from Claude Murphy, Jr. on 1/5/86 for \$150. Seven notes.

For those not familiar with the term, a sutler was an individual who followed or accompanied the army and sold all manner of items to the troops such as liquors, provisions, tobacco products and the like.

2131. A group of depression era scrip including the following: (1) Two type sets of four notes each from the Jamestown, New York, Clearing House Association dated 1933. One set contains \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes, all with serial numbers 00048 and the other set is identical with serial numbers 00102. All the notes are Uncirculated and fresh and are stamped VOID; (2) Five notes of North Carolina and Tennessee scrip. Four notes are bright orange and green in color from the Cumberland Co. General Fund, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Values are 25 Cents, 50 Cents with nine 1 Cent transfer stamps on the back, \$1 with five 2 Cent transfer stamps on the back, and \$5 with one 10 Cent transfer stamp on the back. The first note is Uncirculated, the other three are Very Fine. This portion of the group also includes a \$10 note issued by the city of Elizabethton, Tennessee. It is a sample note marked NOT VALID and is Uncirculated; and (3) Ten pieces of Rochester, New York, scrip from the Rochester Clearing House Association. This portion of the lot includes eight \$1 notes, one \$5 note and one \$10 note. Grades range from Fine to Extremely Fine. A portion of the upper left corner is missing from one of the \$1 notes. 23 notes.

- 2132. A large assortment of broken bank notes including four from North Carolina where JJP lived the early years of his life, two of which are made payable to R. Pittman or bearer and dated April 6, 1852. This lot also contains eleven notes from New York banks, mostly from the Rochester area where JJP lived his entire adult life. The other notes are from various broken banks in Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas and Maryland. Grades range from Fair to Uncirculated. Close inspection is warranted on this interesting group. 23 notes.
- 2133. A large group of notes from the Civil War era, mostly issued by the State of North Carolina. However, the group also contains Civil War era notes issued by the State of Alabama and the State of Georgia as well as a \$500 bond issued by the State of Louisiana, Parish of St. Landry. There are 25 notes issued by the State of North Carolina including both fractional notes and dollar denomination notes up to \$20. There are six notes issued by the State of Georgia and four notes by the State of Alabama. Also included are four fractional notes that were issued by the city of Raleigh, North Carolina. The notes range in grade from Good to Uncirculated. 39 notes plus one bond.
- 2134. A large assortment of Confederate States of America notes from Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War period of the early 1860's. Included in this group are two 50 Cent notes, two \$1 notes, two \$2 notes, three \$5 notes, three \$10 notes, one \$20 note, four \$50 notes (one is autographed by W. Henry Pitman III with the additional admonition, "The South will rise again" - JJP loved this kind of stuff!), four \$100 notes and two \$500 notes. The \$500 notes are very scarce; one grades Extremely Fine, the other Very Fine with a large diagonal crease. Also included in this lot are three Confederate States of America financial instruments including a \$100 bond with fifteen \$4 interest coupons attached. There are also two CSA promissory notes, one for \$50,000 and the other for \$100,000, each bearing serial number 3 and issued on August 30, 1864. The \$50,000 note carries an ink notation on the back indicating that it was paid in full on October 15, 1864. In both cases, the money was borrowed from the Bank of Richmond. 23 notes plus three bonds.

END OF SALE

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Note: In addition to the foregoing, hundreds of auction catalogues from 1860-1998 were reviewed and utilized in the writing of this Pittman catalogue.

